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REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

History of the British Colonies. By R. Montgomery Martin, F.S.S. 5 vols. Vol. IV. *Possessions in Africa and Austral-Asia.* 3vo. pp. *supra* 600. London, 1835. Cochrane and Co.

History of British Colonies, &c. 5 vols. Vol. I. *Second Edition. Possessions in Asia.* Pp. 632. Cochrane and Co.

In our review of Mr. Martin's work (*Literary Gazette*, Dec. 1834) we commended it to make its way speedily, as we anticipated from its merits it would, into every good library in the colonies and mother country; and we congratulate the author on the fulfilment of our auspice, as so agreeably proved to him by the demand for a second edition of his first volume even before his whole design has been completed. The appearance of this, too, reminds us of a duty we have for some time owed to the fourth volume, which issued from the press a couple of months since, and embraces the history of our African and Austral-Asian possessions, explored with as much industry, and developed with as much ability, as other quarters were in the preceding volumes. And this, be it remembered, is no mean praise; for, when it is considered how vast and various a field Mr. Martin had to examine, it must be acknowledged that it required no common skill, perseverance, talent, and labour, to illustrate it so successfully as he has done; to bring such stores of information together, to arrange them so clearly, and to furnish details without dryness, and a whole which truly deserves the name of a national work.

In the reprint before us the author earnestly invokes attention to our Indian empire; and has added a new view of the Hindoos, which much enhances the value of the edition.

The British dominions in Africa and Austral-Asia present many objects of a very interesting nature for inquiry; and the latter, in particular, have features of novelty which enable Mr. Martin to display more than his usual judgment and effect in their description. The Cape of Good Hope occupies the foreground. We have then the Mauritius, Madagascar, &c. Chapter III. is devoted to New South Wales, and IV. to Van Diemen's Land, or Tasmania; Western and Southern Australia, the Falkland Islands, St. Helena and Ascension Islands, and, finally, the settlements of Sierra Leone and Western Africa, complete the whole; and five maps satisfactorily illustrate the text. As we have formerly remarked, it is a difficult thing for us to do much for the author, the great abundance and diversity of his matter absolutely precluding us from ought like a satisfactory illustration of it within the compass of a review. Indeed, we can only select a few scraps, and be content with referring the public to the work itself for copious and unprejudiced intelligence of a general character.

Of poisonous fish, in the Eastern seas, the notice is curious: "There is abundance of fish around Rodriguez, but it is singular that those

caught outside the reefs, in deep water, are poisonous, and several sailors have died from eating of them. One sort, caught near the island, resembles a whiting, and, from its destructive qualities, is named by the French, *mort au chien.* * * * The circumstance of poisonous fish has never been properly accounted for: we know of no birds or animals that are poisonous; even the most venomous snake, when decapitated, is good eating. Some think that the fish being poisonous is owing to copper banks, on which they feed; but it is remarkable that the fish caught on the same bank are at one time poisonous, and at another edible. Some sorts of fish are, however, poisonous at all times, and I have seen a dog die in a few minutes after eating one. Mariners ought to reject fish without scales, unless they know them to be good, and a silver spoon, if boiled with the fish, will turn black, should it be noxious. The early French settlers narrate that they found eels of an exquisite flavour on the island, so large that one of them was a load for *two men to carry.*"

The following is an amusing instance of the danger of carrying a joke too far:—

"Various spices grow on Mahé, &c. such as the cinnamon-plant, cloves, nutmeg, and pepper, which were introduced by orders of M. de Poivre, the intelligent Governor of Mauritius, with a view to rival the Dutch in the Moluccas: the cultivation, if persevered in, would probably have rendered the Seychelles, at the present day, as valuable as the far-famed spice-islands, but for a singular circumstance. The plantation at the Seychelles was tended with great care as a national undertaking; but, as the French were apprehensive that the islands might be attacked by the British squadron, orders were given by the Governor of Mauritius to surround the spice-garden with bundles of dried fagots, and other combustible matter; and, the moment a British vessel of war hove in sight, to set fire to the whole. A large vessel shortly after hove in sight with English colours; the spice-trees were immediately burned, and the ship of war came in to Mahé harbour with the tri-colour flag, it being a French man-of-war, that had used a *ruse*, to try whether the islands had a British force on them. The feelings of the French, when the valuable plantations were being consumed, may be readily imagined."

The following extracts, touching New South Wales, may interest our readers:—

"Among the other peculiarities of Australia, its aboriginal population is not the least extraordinary. They appear to form a distinct race, to which the term Papuas or Oriental negroes has been assigned; and, whether on the north-

* The writer says:—"A ludicrous circumstance occurred when I was at Mahé: the sailors of our squadron were allowed a day's revelry on shore; and, of course, some of them got drunk, and were lodged by the gens d'armes in a small watch-house, situate on a slope. The Jacks took a curious mode of liberating their comrades: they got a strong hawser, belayed it round the walls of the watch-house, and nearly 200 hands heaved on the hawser, until they hove down the watch-house, and nearly killed their drunken comrades, who had, by this time, made a hole in the 'deck' (roof), and got aloft, while the gens d'armes fled for their lives."

ern, or tropical, or southern and temperate shores of Australia, possess the thick, prominent lips, sunken eyes, high cheek-bones, and calfless legs of the African; differing, however, in the hair, which (except in Van Diemen's Land and the adjacent equally cold coast of Australia, where the heads of the natives are woolly) is long and coarse. The nose, though large, is not so flat as the Africanders; indeed, it is sometimes of a Roman form; and the forehead is high, narrow, and at the crown formed somewhat after the manner of the roof of a house. Desirous of ascertaining the osteological measurement of this extraordinary race of human beings, I procured, after considerable difficulty, a male and female body. The first belonged to a native called, I think, Black Tommy, who was hanged for murder at Sydney, in 1827. The circumstances connected with this man's execution were, to my mind, very singular, and deserve publicity: from the narration made to me, I believed the native to be innocent of the crime alleged against him, and I, therefore, attended at his trial to aid in the defence of a man who knew not a word of our language, and owed no obedience to our laws. The evidence elicited at the trial was to the following effect:—Two shepherds were tending their masters' flocks, at a distance from Bathurst, and when evening came returned each to their respective huts. On the following day, a dog belonging to one of the shepherds came running to the other and leaped up, catching the shepherd by the collar, who beat the dog away; the dog with great anxiety again caught the man by the coat, and endeavoured to pull him towards his master's hut, and by his exertions at last induced the shepherd to follow him: on arriving at the hut belonging to the master of the dog, it was found to be on fire, and, on entering it, the body of the shepherd was stretched on the floor, the head resting on the ashes, and the base of the skull separated from the other portions of the head. As military expeditions had been recently out against the blacks, another was instantly set on foot; a party of natives were despatched on the brow of a mountain, and of course fled the moment they saw our mounted police; this was deemed *prima facie* evidence of their guilt in having murdered the shepherd, and one man, who appeared a chief, after seeing his wife, children, and friends safe, almost allowed himself to be caught. The circumstantial evidence of his running away was supposed to be strengthened by his having, with a party of natives, been recently seen at the shepherd's hut bartering with the Europeans. This was the only evidence against him; the arguments I adduced in his favour were chiefly anatomical; there was no mark of a blow on the skull or body of the deceased; the natives were not possessed of any instrument which could carve out the occipital bone in the manner it was done in the skull of the deceased shepherd, and which had evidently been caused by the action of fire, loosening the sutures and bursting the bones

asunder: moreover, the fire might have been accidental in a bark hut. The poor native was, however, placed in the dock; he laughed at the scene around, the meaning of which he could not in the slightest degree comprehend (none of the Sydney blacks speaking his language), the forms of a trial were gone through, and he was executed. I applied to the sheriff, and obtained his body, dissected it, and prepared a skeleton therefrom, which I took with me to India. The measurement of the male was that of the unfortunate Bathurst chief. The female I obtained with great difficulty. She was an old woman long known about Sydney. Hearing of her death and burial in the forest, about twenty-five miles from my residence, I went thither, and, aided by some stock-keepers, found the grave—a slightly elevated and nearly circular *tumulus*. The body was buried six feet deep, wrapped in several sheets of bark, the inner one being of a fine silvery texture. Several things which the deceased possessed in life, together with her favourite dog, were buried with her—all apparently for use in another world. I brought the old woman home in my cabriolet, and her skeleton is also in India. The skull was full of indentations, as if a tin vessel had been struck by a hammer; they were quite diaphonous, and were caused by blows of waddies (hard sticks) when she was young and made love to by her intended spouse, such being the most approved manner of proceeding to choose a wife.* I regret much not having brought the skull with me to England (it is in the Asiatic Society's Museum at Calcutta), as I could not myself have credited that it were possible to make such extraordinary indentations in the human skull without fracturing it, except, indeed, before the infant be born."

"Of religion, no form, no ceremonial, no idol has ever been discovered; but they possess many superstitions. When one of their own tribe has paid the debt of nature, they invariably destroy a native of another tribe—why or wherefore is not known. They have strange ideas of futurity; the whites are considered re-animated beings who had formerly been their ancestors; the dead are buried generally in grave-yards of considerable extent, the earth elevated in an oval shape: sometimes they are burned."

The following is a remarkable story:—

"An instance of their keen sight and scent occurred when I was in New South Wales. A settler on the great western road was missing from his small farm. His convict overseer gave out that he had gone off privately to England, and left the property in his care. This was thought extraordinary, as the settler was not in difficulties, and was a steady, prudent individual; the affair, however, was almost forgotten, when, one Saturday night, another settler was returning with his horse and cart from market. On arriving at a part of the fence on the road-side, near the farm of his absent neighbour, he thought he saw him sitting on the fence; immediately the farmer pulled up his mare, hailed his friend, and, receiving no answer, got out of the cart and went towards the fence; his neighbour (as he plainly appeared) quitted the fence, and crossed the field towards a pond in the direction of his home, which it was supposed he had deserted. The farmer thought it strange, remounted his cart, and proceeded home. The next morning

* "It is extraordinary to observe two of the aborigines fighting: each holds *out* his head to receive a tremendous blow of a club from *the other*, and they thus continue giving blow for blow, until one or the other, or perhaps both, fall senseless together."

he went to his neighbour's cottage, expecting to see him; but saw only the overseer, who laughed at the story, and said that his master was then near England. The circumstance was so strange that the farmer went to the nearest justice of the peace (I think it was to the Penrith bench), related the above, and stated that he thought foul play had taken place. A native black, who was (and I believe still is) attached to the station as a constable, was sent with some of the mounted police, and accompanied the farmer to the rails where the latter thought he saw, the evening before, his deceased friend. The black was pointed out the spot, without shewing him the direction which the lost person apparently took after quitting the fence. On close inspection, a part of the upper rail was observed to be discoloured; it was scraped with a knife by the black, smelled, and tasted. Immediately after he crossed the fence and took a straight direction for the pond near the cottage; on its surface was a scum, which the black took up in a leaf, and, after tasting and smelling, he declared it to be 'white man's fat.' Several times, somewhat after the manner of a blood-hound, he coursed round the lake; at last darted into the neighbouring thicket, and stopped over a place containing some loose and decayed brushwood. On removing this, he thrust down the ramrod of his piece into the earth, smelt it, and then desired the spectators to dig there. Instantly spades were brought from the cottage, and the body of the absent settler was found, with his skull fractured, and presenting every indication of having been some time immersed in water. The overseer, who was in possession of the property of the deceased, and who had invented the story of his departure for England, was committed to gaol, and tried for murder. The foregoing circumstantial evidence formed the main accusations. He was found guilty, sentenced to death, and proceeded to the scaffold, protesting his innocence. Here, however, his hardihood forsook him: he acknowledged the murder of his late master; that he came behind him when he was crossing the identical rail on which the farmer thought he saw the deceased, and, with one blow on the head, felled him dead—dragged the body to the pond, and threw it in; but, after some days, took it out again, and buried it where it was found. The sagacity of the native black was remarkable; but the unaccountable manner in which the murderer was discovered, is one of the inscrutable dispensations of Providence."

We shall conclude with one extract relative to Gambia, contained in a very recent letter from "A London merchant, Mr. Matthew Forster, who has zealously and patriotically exerted himself for the welfare of that unfortunate but valuable country. He observes—" It may add some interest to your chapter on our African settlements if you notice the probable discoveries that may yet be made in the products of that quarter of the world, which, till very lately, was seldom visited for any more legitimate article of produce than human flesh. I have already mentioned to you that teak-timber, for the purpose of ship-building, and mahogany, are discoveries within the last twenty years. The first importation of palm-oil is within the recollection of persons now alive; and when the slave trade was abolished in 1808, the quantity imported annually did not exceed one or two hundred tons. The annual importations now exceed twelve thousand tons! I have lately been attempting to obtain other oils from the coast; and it was only yesterday I received from the hands of the oil-presser the

result of my most recent experiment on the ground nut, which, I am happy to say, is encouraging. I send you a sample of the oil extracted from them. They are from the Gambia. [It is a pure golden-coloured oil, with a pleasant flavour, free from the frequent rancidity of olive-oil.] I lately received from Cape Coast a quantity of the palm-nut from which the palm-oil is previously obtained, for the purpose of examining the kernels to see whether they would not yield an oil worth extracting; I send you a sample of the nuts, and one of the candles made from the styrax obtained from them, but I do not think they have had fair play in the management. I also send you a sample of a physic-nut sent home by Mr. President Maclean the other day from Cape Coast, upon which Mr. Battley, the pharmaceutical chemist, has made some experiments, and of which he reports most favourably. He states that the oil obtained from them has all the valuable qualities of castor-oil in a stronger degree—a few drops being sufficient, while it is free from the loathsome taste so objectionable in castor-oil. He has had it tried in the hospitals, where it has been reported favourably of. I will obtain from him a specimen of the oil for you. It is used as physic by the natives. If I am blessed with health and life for a few years longer, I do not despair of increasing the number and value of our African imports. It is the surest method of improving Africa and benefiting the mother country; and it becomes a British merchant to carry his views sometimes beyond the boundary of sordid gain." [I trust (adds Mr. Martin) these sentiments may be widely diffused among our colonial merchants.]

An Appendix, on secondary punishments, finishes the volume; but we have had enough of discussion on this point of late, and shall, therefore, only repeat our entire approbation of Mr. Martin's labours, and our apology for not being able to do more than pass by their important features with this tribute, and serve up only a few miscellaneous paragraphs by way of specimens, rather for the entertainment of our readers than as exhibiting the author's more sterling merits by his own lights.

The Linwoods; or, "Sixty Years since" in America. By Miss Sedgwick, author of "Hope Leslie," &c. 3 vols. 12mo. London. 1835. Churton.

THIS is a most delightful work—fresh, graphic, yet exquisitely feminine. We have always felt that America was the true field for American writers. Their own revolution has every material for fiction—the high excitement, the wild adventure, the qualities that war always draws forth—and one of the most magnificent countries in the world, as the theatre of action. The state of society, too, was well fitted for display of character: there was civilisation; and yet the scattered nature of society gave occasion for more originality than belongs to the highly polished and closely packed city. Such is the period in which Miss Sedgwick has laid her story. Her heroines are beautiful contrasts—"The one a flower, the other like a gem;" and the descriptions resemble paintings; but the late time of our receiving this work prevents our doing more than selecting an episode, too common in the American war, of the Skimmers attacking a house in which a widow lady lived with two blind children:—

"Mrs. Archer was quietly sleeping with her children, when she was awakened by unusual sounds in the room below her; and immediately her maid, who slept in the adjoining apartment, rushed in, crying out, 'that the

house was full of men—she heard them on the stairs, in the parlour, hall, everywhere ! Mrs. Archer sprang from the bed, threw on her dressing-gown, bade the girl be quiet, and beware of frightening the children ; and then, as they, startled by the noise, raised their heads from their pillows, she told them in a calm and decidedly cheerful voice, that there were men in the house, who she believed had come to rob it ; but that they would neither do harm to them nor to her. She then ordered her maid to light the candles on the dressing-table, and, again reassuring her trembling children, who had meanwhile crept to her side, she awaited the fearful visitors, whose footsteps she heard on the staircase. A fierce-looking wretch burst into the apartment. The spectacle of the mother and her children arrested him, and he involuntarily doffed his cap. It was a moment for a painter, if he could calmly have surveyed the scene. The maid had shrunk behind her mistress's chair, and, kneeling there, had grasped her gown with both hands, as if there were safety in the touch. Poor little Lizzy's face was hidden in her mother's bosom, and her fair silken curls hung over her mother's dark dressing-gown. Ned, at the sound of the opening door, turned his sightless eye-balls towards the villain. There was something manly and defying in his air and erect attitude ; something protecting in the expression of his arm as he laid it over his sister, while the clinging of his other arm around his mother's neck indicated the defencelessness of childhood, and his utter helplessness. Mrs. Archer had thrown aside her nightcap ; her hair was twisted up in a sort of Madonna style ; but not of the tame Madonna cast was her fine, spirited countenance, which blended the majesty of the ideal Minerva with the warmth and tenderness of the woman and mother. The marauder, on entering, paid her, as we have said, an instinctive homage ; but, immediately recovering his accustomed insolence, he replied to her calm demand of 'What is your purpose ?' 'To get what we can, and keep what we get—my name is Hewson, which, if you've heard it, will be warrant to you that I sha'n't do my work by halves.' The name of the Skinner was too notorious not to have been heard by Mrs. Archer. Her blood ran cold, but she replied, without faltering, 'Proceed to your work ; the house is open to you, not a lock in your way. Abby, give him my purse off the dressing-table—there is all the money I have by me—now leave my room, I pray you.'

Disappointed in the valuables he expected, the ruffian returns.

The captain returned to Mrs. Archer's apartment. 'I say, mistress,' he began, his flushed face and thickened voice indicating she had fresh cause for alarm, 'I say, we can't be choused—so if you want to save what's choicer than money,' he shook his fist with a tiger-like expression at the children, 'you must have two hundred guineas put under ground for me, on the north side of the big oak, at the bridge, and that before Saturday night ; nobody to know it but you—no living soul but you, and that gal there—no false play : remember ! Come, strike while the iron's hot, or we'll say three hundred.' Mrs. Archer reflected for a moment. She would have given a bond for any sum by which she could relieve herself of the presence of the outlaws. They had already produced such an effect on little Lizzy, a timid, susceptible creature, that she expected every moment to see her falling into convulsions ; and, with this dread, each moment seemed an hour. She replied that the money

should, without fail, be placed in the appointed spot. 'That is not quite all, madam ; I must have security. I know how the like of you look on promises made to the like of me. I got a rope good as round my neck by trusting to them once, and no thanks to them that I slipped it. I'll clinch the nail this time—I'll have security.' 'What security ?' demanded Mrs. Archer, the colour for the first time forsaking her cheeks and lips ; for, by the ruffian's glance, and a significant up and down motion of his head, she guessed his purpose. 'A pawn—I must have a pawn—one of them young ones. You need not screech and hold on so, you little fools. If you behave, I'll not hurt a hair of your head. The minute I handle the money you shall have 'em back ; but as sure as my name's Sam Hewson, I'll make 'em a dead carcass if you play me false.' 'You shall not touch my children—any thing else—ask all—take all—any thing but my children.' 'Take all !—ay, that we shall—all we can take ; and as to asking, we mean to make sure of what we ask—'a bird in the hand,' mistress.' 'Oh, take my word, my oath—spare my children !' 'Words are breath, and oaths breath peppered. Your children are your life ; and one of them in our hands, our secret is as safe with you as with us—we've no time to chaffer—make one of them ready.' 'Oh, mother !—mother !' shrieked Lizzy, clinging round her mother's waist. 'Hush, Lizzy—I'll go,' said Edward. 'Neither shall go, my children—they shall take my life first.' *

'He mounted the stairs, sprang like a tiger on his prey, and returned with Lizzy, already an unconscious burden, in his arms. One piercing shriek Hewson heard proceeding from Mrs. Archer's apartment, but not another sound. It occurred to him that Pat might have committed the murder he volunteered ; and exclaiming, 'the blundering Irish rascal has kicked the pail over !' he once more ascended the stairs to assure himself of the cause of the ominous silence. Edward was in the adjoining apartment when Lizzy was wrested from her mother's arms. He was recalled by Mrs. Archer's scream ; and when Hewson reached the apartment, he found Mrs. Archer lying senseless across the threshold of the door, and Edward groping around, and calling, 'Mother !—Lizzy !—where are you ?—do speak, mother !' A moment after, Mrs. Archer felt her boy's arms around her neck. She returned to a consciousness of her condition, and heard the trampling of the outlaws' horses as they receded from her dwelling.'

The hero of the work rescues the child, but he brings her back cold and insensible.

'As he approached Mrs. Archer's grounds, he inferred from the diminished light that the flames had nearly done their work ; and when he issued from the thick wood that skirted her estate, he saw in the smouldering ruins all that was left of her hospitable and happy mansion. 'Ah,' thought he, 'a fit home for this lifeless little body !' He turned towards the office where he had left the mother. She was awaiting him at the door. It seemed to her that she had lived a thousand years in the hour of his absence. She asked no questions—a single glance at the still, colourless figure of her child had sufficed. She uttered no sound, but, stretching forth her arms, received her, and sunk down on the door-step, pressing her close to her bosom. Edward had sprang to the door at the first sound of the horse's hoofs. He understood his mother's silence. He heard the servants whispering, in suppressed voices, 'She is dead !' He placed his hand on Lizzy's cheek :

at first he recoiled at the touch ; and then again, drawing closer, he sat down by his mother, and dropped his hand on Lizzy's bosom, crying out, 'I wish I were dead too !' His bursts of grief were frightful. The servants endeavoured to soothe him—he did not hear them. Her mother laid her face to his, and the touch of her cheek, after a few moments, tranquillised him. He became quiet ; then suddenly lifting his head, he shrieked—'Her heart beats, mother ! her heart beats ! Lay your hand there. Do you not feel it ? It does, it does, mother ; I feel it, and hear it too !' Eliot had dismounted from his horse, and stood with folded arms, watching with the deep sympathy of his affectionate nature the progress of this family tragedy, while he awaited a moment when he might offer such services as Mrs. Archer needed. He thought it possible that the sharpened senses of the blind boy had detected a pulsation not perceptible to senses less acute. He inquired of the servants for salts, brandy, vinegar—any of the ordinary stimulants ; nothing had been saved—nothing was left but the elements of fire and water. These suggested to his quick mind the only and very best expedient. In five minutes a warm bath was prepared, and the child immersed in it. Mrs. Archer was re-nerved when she saw others acting from a hope she scarcely dared admit. 'Station yourself here, my dear madam,' said Eliot ; 'there, put your arm in the place of mine—let your little boy go on the other side and take her hand—let her first conscious sensation be of the touch most familiar and dear to her—let the first sounds she hears be your voices—nothing must be strange to her. I do believe this is merely the overpowering effect of terror ; I am sure she has suffered no violence. Put your hand again on her bosom, my dear little fellow. Do you feel the beats now ?' 'Oh yes, sir ! stronger and quicker than before.' 'I believe you are right ; but be cautious, I entreat you—make no sudden outcry nor exclamation.' Mrs. Archer's face was as colourless as the child's over whom she was bending ; and her fixed eye glowed with such intensity, that Eliot thought it might have kindled life in the dead. Suddenly he perceived the blood gush into her cheeks—he advanced one step nearer, and he saw that a faint suffusion, like the first almost imperceptible tinge of coming day, had overspread the child's face. It deepened around her lips—there was a slight distension of the nostrils—a tremulousness about the muscles of the mouth—a heaving of the bosom, and then a deep-drawn sigh. A moment passed, and a faint smile was perceptible on the quivering lip. 'Lizzy !' said her mother. 'Dear Lizzy !' cried her brother. 'Mother !—Ned !' she faintly articulated. 'Thank God, she is safe !' exclaimed Eliot.'

We have now only to commend Miss Sedgwick's work most cordially to public attention. It will deserve its welcome on this side the Atlantic.

The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. No. IV. 8vo. London, 1835. Parker.
Transactions, &c. Vol. III. 4to. 1835. London, J. Murray; Parbury, Allen, and Co.; Paris, Barrois, fils; Leipzig, Black, Young, and Black.

THE further the Royal Asiatic Society proceeds, the more firm and well-directed are its movements, and, consequently, the more valuable and important their results. At first, especially in so vast and imperfectly known a field, the difficulties which beset the exploring

adventurer were hardly to be overcome; but under judicious heads, and in zealous and active hands, organisation and plan have speedily taken the place of more vague and uncertain attempts, and we now see the realisation of all those hopes and expectations with which we hailed the formation of this great and useful institution.

The Journal, No. IV., which has just issued from the press, is filled with excellent papers, affording much information on various parts of our Indian dominions; and, whether viewed in a literary, antiquarian, statistical, historical, political, or economical light, possessing strong claims to the public consideration.

The first communication is Colonel Sykes' excellent report on the land tenures of the Dekkan, which was listened to, in substance if not in detail, with so much attention in the statistical section of the British Association at Dublin, (*vide Literary Gazette, passim.*) The next is a memoir of the primitive church of Malayala, or of the Syrian Christians of the apostle Thomas, by Capt. Swanson; the third, notes of a history of Tennasserim, so lately added to our eastern territories, by Captain James Low; the fourth, a translated account of some remarkable ancient Chinese vases, with engravings, by Mr. P. P. Thoms; the fifth, a learned essay on Buddhism, by Mr. B. H. Hodgson; the sixth, a description of the sea-ports of the coast of Malabar, with reference to ship-building, by Mr. Edye, of the surveying department, R.N., in which the particulars of the growth, properties, &c. &c. of the multitude of trees produced in the adjacent forests, appear to be of extraordinary interest; and last, ten inscriptions on stone and copper, found on the western side of India, by Mr. W. H. Wathen, and remarks by Professor Wilson of Oxford.

An Appendix contains proceedings of the meetings, reports of the council, auditors, &c., as given in the order of their occurrence in the *Literary Gazette*, and therefore unnecessary to be repeated.

With regard to the original papers, we shall omit any notice of Colonel Sykes' report, beyond the compliment to its intrinsic worth as a first-rate contribution towards illustrating the condition of the Indian people before the Mahometan conquest, because it is impossible to abridge the intelligence of its research. Captain Swanson's church history is also replete with curious matter, and draws a horrid picture of these professed Syro Roman Catholic Christians, who are the very scum of society, and guilty of the most atrocious crimes.

Capt. Low's history of the provinces wrested from the Burmese by the late war, is full of interest; and, previous, we trust, to its publication as a separate whole, we select a few from its numerous novel statements of native manners and customs.

In Tavoy, increased from 16,000 to 26,500 souls (Burmans and Peguens) since the war, Capt. Low says:—

"In the above first-stated total of 16,000 souls, there were about 4600 men capable of active employment, and in it the proportion of females exceeded that of the males by about one in fifteen: there were about 250 Phungées or priests, and 2000 (as nearly as could be learned) debtors,* of both sexes and all ages. It does not appear that Tavoy at any period contained more than 30,000 souls. In 1793, when the then governor of Tavoy delivered up the place to the Siamese under their Prince Regent, the latter carried 5000 inhabitants of

every description into captivity or slavery; and when *Dainvoun*, the Burmese general, attacked Junkceylon, the Tavoyers lost, it is said, nearly twice the above number. We may allow one half of the latter statement to be near the truth. An excess of 1000 females over the number of males in the whole population is easily to be accounted for: Tavoy was long exposed to the inroads of the Siamese, who carried off the men when at a distance from their homes. The Burman conscriptive system also drew, at times, largely on the people; and, lastly, the custom, sanctioned by Burman law, prevalent amongst the people, of selling their services (particularly of women), or those of their children, was calculated to throw into the families of the richest classes an undue proportion of females. A stranger cannot fail, on entering the town of Tavoy, to remark the crowds of women seen in the streets: this does not, in a very manifest degree, arise from the disproportion alluded to, but is owing to the freedom women here enjoy, and which so favourably contrasts with the savage custom which immures them within the walls of an Indian harem, or domestic prison. The condition of the debtors ostensibly originates in a contract formally entered into by the parties, and liable to be dissolved by a repayment of the sum lent; but, under the Burman sway, a person of this description was rarely found able to emancipate himself; and his debt, with all the accumulated sums and value of articles given to him and his family, descended to the latter at his death. The wife was first liable, and, on her death, the children; the husband, in like manner, paid the debts of his deceased wife, but the children of a debtor might sell their services during his life, and thus escape the obligation to pay his debt, unless their names had been inserted in the deed. Parents were, however, answerable for the debt of a child on his death, if contracted with their knowledge. After the place was taken, numbers of female debtors found means to emancipate themselves. The young women had little difficulty, as many formed half matrimonial connexions with the British soldiers, both European and native, of all ranks. When debtors are not employed in the business of their masters, they work elsewhere; paying, however, to the former about five pice, or the ninth part of a rupee daily. • • •

"The provisions which may be got in the bazars on this coast are elephant's-flesh, venison, poultry, hog's-flesh, rice, Indian corn, eggs, milk, yams, and sweet potatoes, and a few escutels, fish, and articles imported from India or Penang, fruits, &c. The poorer natives will eat frogs, guanas, and other reptiles, and, most of them, animals which have died a natural death. Monkeys are also eaten; buffalo-hide, prepared in a peculiar way, is occasionally eaten; the *taun palau*, along, white, semipellucid worm, which is found in decayed wood, is reckoned a delicacy, as are termites, and other kinds of ants. When invited to eat with Europeans, a well-bred Burman becomes very soon at home, for he strictly watches the actions of his guest [host?] and others at table, and imitates them so well that he scarcely betrays any awkwardness after two or three trials. They will in general drink indifferently any liquor that is offered to them: beer is universally relished by most eastern people, and not least by those whose religion forbids them to taste intoxicating drinks. They prefer the strange mixture of pickled tea-leaf, with oil of sesame, onions, garlic, salt, ginger, and cocoa-nut, to the simple infusion of the dry tea-plant: the plant, at least one species of it, grows in the hilly parts of the countries

bordering on the east of Ava Proper. It is always sent along with invitations to dinner or a feast: if a person who receives an invitation cannot attend, it is expected that he shall send some one to fill his place. Some of the men who affect a strict adherence to Buddhist tenets will not taste wine or spirits; these have vowed abstinence from certain luxuries and indulgencies, or abstain from them, either on principle, or to gain credit with the multitude; those who take sanctimonious oaths allow their beards to grow, and are sedate in their deportment; they mix, however, in society, and do not debauch themselves from any reasonable pleasure."

[Sending a deputy or representative to a feast is not a bad custom. We daresay one such, in our own country, would eat and drink as much as his principal, and enjoy himself at least equally; while there would be no regret on the part of hosts at being disappointed of their proper number of guests. If adopted in London, too, it would happily enlarge the sphere for professed diners-out, who are often, poor devils! left to pick bones in their lodgings, or dine with the duke of appalling name, in St. James' Park, where only the ducks are tolerably fed.]

"Burman children are very respectful to their parents. When a youth leaves home to go on a journey or voyage, he lays his head at their feet, and entreats their forgiveness for past faults, and their blessing for the future. They, in turn, kiss his cheek. By kissing is not implied the European mode of salutation, but a strong inhalation through the nose,—a custom which is deserving of notice, since it is found to be extant amongst all the Indo-Chinese nations, the Malays, the islanders of the Archipelago, and in China. A social or family trait of this nature, so prevalent and peculiar, may be considered as pointing to some remote connexion betwixt the various tribes which have adopted it. • • •

"The Tennasserim people, with the exception of some of the Karen tribes, who have only occasionally a few charms punctured in their skins, tattoo themselves like the Burmans of Ava, and the inhabitants of Loas. In this respect they widely differ from the Siamese, who consider the practice as barbarous; perhaps they have discarded it in order that they might be better distinguished from their ancient enemies the Burmans. The legs, hips, and arms, are the parts of the body chiefly submitted to the operation; and this last is with these people essential to mark the period of manhood. The tattooer uses a very long gold stylus. The operation is tedious and rather painful, as several gentlemen informed me, who, out of curiosity, submitted to this disfigurement of their nether man. As a slight fever is produced by the irritation, the patient is ordered to live sparingly, and to attend to some superstitious observances. The colouring matter is the lamp-black produced by burning sesame-oil under an old cooking-pot, which a priest has used in collecting his daily provisions. The lamp-black is mixed with the gall of an alligator, of a guana, or of a flying fox: the red is vermilion. When charms, to render the person invulnerable, are tattooed, the operation must take place in the *Thein*, or 'place of idols.' They have books containing directions for every kind of tattooing; and figures of the animals and other objects before noticed. A Burman's skin is often covered with a variety of representations of real and fabulous animals and birds, of pagodas, and other objects; and accompanied by Bali sentences of potent efficacy,

* Persons who sell their services.

in his apprehension, in averting evils of every kind. Tatooing has prevailed from the earliest ages. In Holy Writ the people are enjoined 'not to print any marks on their bodies.' *

"When a child has attained the age of seven years, its head is shaved with much formality, and an entertainment is given, as is usual on every important occasion. The boring of the ears of the female children, at the age of nine, or from that period up to twelve, is also one of rejoicing. An old astrologer next inspects the horoscope, and foretells a fortunate hour for giving the child a name. The visitors are expected to present the child with money, or something of value. On occasions of this nature, the parents have sent a present to me of a few flowers, and some betel and areca, in expectation of a more valuable return. The Burmans and Peguers of this province generally burn their dead; but all persons under the age of fifteen are buried. If a woman dies in childbirth, the body is burned on the bank of a river; hence the Tavoy women, when quarrelling, exclaim, *Kyaun nū pao*: 'May you be burned on a river's bank.'

The lower classes, however, seldom burn the body of a person who has died accidentally or suddenly, but bury it. The body of an executed criminal is exposed to birds and wild beasts: the reason for not burning the body, as above stated, was not assigned, but it was probably a superstitious one. The body of the high-priest, who died at Martaban, just after its capture, was burned in the way which is described in Symes's *Ava*. It was placed on a pile; a wire was stretched from it to a distance, and, along this, a rocket was ignited, which set fire to the pile. So much oil and petroleum were used for this ceremony, that the ground, which was mossy, continued burning for about a week after its conclusion. *

"The people here play at chess (*chetre*), draughts (*kya*), with eight pieces of a side, and at football, and games of chance. The football is made of wicker, and is kicked into the air by men, who stand in a circle twelve or fifteen yards in diameter. This game seems to be confined to the Chinese, the Indo-Chinese, and the Malays. They have *naban kya*, or wrestling-matches, in which the Burmans display much muscular strength and no small degree of art. They also, at certain festivals, have their men of 'the fancy,' and the pugilists are only allowed to go through a limited number of rounds, so that they are seldom much hurt: but in presence of the Golden Foot they fight more violently. The Burmese fence (*hveyet*) with sticks ten or twelve feet long, which they hold with both hands near the middle. They fight cocks with artificial spurs; but these are generally made of bone or of an alligator's tooth, or even of a human bone, if the parties are of royal extraction, and so shaped as to resemble the natural spur: and they keep in jars, apart from each other, many fish of a small species found in fresh water, for the purpose of fighting. Each party lets out a fish into a basin, and bets are laid by the owners: the fish is the *pikat* of the Siamese, who also amuse themselves by exhibiting their puny encounters. Buffalo-fights are occasionally exhibited, especially after harvest. I was present at one at Tavoy, before the ex-chief, or *Myawdin*, who gave up the place, and had quite relinquished all authority. The party which accompanied him and his family, consisted of the officers of the British detachment; and it was amusing on this occasion, to those used to Indian manners, to see the chief's wife walk in, arm-in-arm with our commanding officer, and to remark the absence of all absurd

shyness in the other females. The concourse of persons of both sexes amounted to several thousands. The buffaloes were baited against each other by pairs, in the middle of a circle formed by the crowd: they were directed by men on their backs, one to each. The riders dexterously evaded the horns of the animals, when they happened to take them in flank, by slipping off, and then mounting again; very few, however, of the buffaloes would remain after the second or third round, and, as they rushed through the crowd, many persons were severely hurt. At the period corresponding with the Holi festival of the Hindús, the Burmans squirt water on passengers: the ladies and females in general indulge greatly in the diversion, and no doubt take this way of bringing on a conversation with some favoured swain."

How near the bull-fights of Spain, and the sweetmeat batteries of Italy are these customs! They say there is nothing new under the sun: may we not add that there is nothing peculiar to any people in the universe?

We must again refer to the highly useful information in Mr. Edye's account of the Malabar forests, in which prodigious elephants and the royal tiger of immense size and power* are found. Among the great number of trees producing fruits, nutritive and medicinal oils, raisins, flowers, fibres for cordage, &c., &c., there is one called the *Steam-tree*, whence steam issues when its roots are cut! The trees of Ceylon are also enumerated, and are equally various, and of all kinds, for colour of the wood, weight or lightness, durability, fitness for house and ship-building, carpentry, furniture, ornament, and other uses.

The volume of Transactions has the report of the committee of correspondence, and teaches us to anticipate matters of infinite importance from many quarters; and also, besides other things of general interest, the comprehensive and able address of Sir Alexander Johnston, which fully develops the state, measures, and prospects of the Society, and notices many facts connected therewith, of extreme curiosity and interest.

The Encyclopædia Britannica (seventh edition). Edited by Professor Napier. Vol. XI. Part II. Edinburgh, Black. London, Simpkin and Co.; Whittaker and Co.; Hamilton and Co. Dublin, Cumming.

We look, no doubt, for the best and latest information of every kind from an Encyclopædia, and, therefore, in the present part were not surprised to find Hindostan, History, Holland, and Horticulture, excellent articles. But we were surprised, and that agreeably enough, to discover that Horse, Horsemanship, Hound, and Hunting, also were essays worthy of Nimrod, alias Mr. Charles Apperley, who delighted in that *nominis umbra*, and whose performances in the equestrian order have so often entertained and astonished our and other plebeian capacities. To us, footmen of the quill, it has seemed as if we could not hold the stirrup of this well-mounted rider; and, *certes*, on his own grounds he can have few competitors in the race. His contributions to the present volume are accordingly among its best pieces; and we shall take the liberty to mount behind him, and shew off a little upon horse-flesh. In the Doncaster week surely the following must be a well-timed and appropriate quotation:—

"It would be absurd to draw a comparison

* One was killed measuring nearly eleven feet from head to tail!

between the English race-horse in training, and the horse of the desert, 'educated,' as Mr. Gibbon eloquently says of him, 'in the tents, among the children of the Arabs, with a tender familiarity, which trains him in the habits of gentleness and attachment.' Nevertheless, we are inclined to believe that the tempers of many naturally quiet horses are made uncertain, and oftentimes decidedly vicious, by want of proper judgment, as well as good temper, in those, also, who have the management of them. Brutes, like men, demand peculiar mode of treatment, when we require them to do their utmost for us; and it is certain that this principle holds good in regard to both, namely, that, in general, kindness gains its point, cruelty provokes resistance, and a proper degree of severity produces obedience. The panther in the fable knew who fed her with bread, and who pelted her with stones; and we may be assured that so noble and high-spirited an animal as the horse feels with acuteness sensations of pleasure and pain. We often hear it asserted that the British thoroughbred horse has degenerated within the last few years, and is no longer the stout and long-enduring animal that he was in the bygone century, particularly during the last twenty years of it. We are inclined to believe that there is some truth in this. We do not think we have such good four-mile horses, as they are termed, as formerly, which we consider easily accounted for. They are not wanted, very few four-mile races being now run even at Newmarket or in the country, and, therefore, a different kind of race-horse is sought for. It may, however, be true that the inducement to train colts and fillies, at a very early period of their lives, for these short races, has had an injurious effect on their stamina, and, consequently, on the stock bred from them. Formerly a horse was wanted for a life-time, now he is cut up in his youth to answer the purposes of perhaps but one day; a system, we admit, quite at variance with the original object of horse-racing, which was intended to benefit the community, by being the means of producing, as well as displaying, the constitutional strength of the horse in its very highest perfection. Another cause may have operated in rendering thorough-bred horses less powerful than they were, or less capable of enduring severe fatigue. During the period of high weights and long courses, horses and mares were kept on in training until after they had arrived at the age of maturity; neither did they begin to work so soon: whereas now, no sooner have they won, or run well for some of our great three-year-old stakes, than they are put into the stud to produce racing stock, which is perhaps to be used much in the same manner as they themselves have been used, or we should have rather said, abused. But, admitting this alleged falling off in the powers and performances of the British thorough-bred horse, it may be the result of causes unconnected with those already noticed. Although there may be no era of greater intellectual brightness than another in the history of any animal but man, yet, as is signified by Plato in the eighth book of his 'Republic,' there have always been periods of fertility and sterility of men, animals, and plants; and that, in fertile periods, mankind, as well as animals, will not only be both more numerous, but superior in bodily endowments, to those of a barren period. This theory is supported by the relations of ancient historians, in the accounts they give of animals which no where exist at present, and in the properties they ascribe to some of those which

now do exist. But to return to the alleged alteration for the worse in the British race-horse. We admit the fact, that he is not so good at high weight over the Beacon at Newmarket, or any other four-mile course, as his predecessors were, whose descent was closer than his is to the blood of Herod and Eclipse, and the descendants of that cross, said to be the stoutest of any. Nevertheless he is, in his present form, more generally adapted to the purposes to which the horse is applied. He has a shorter but more active stroke in his gallop than his predecessors had, which is more available to him in the short races of the present time than the deep rate of the four-milers of old times; and as he is now required to start quickly, and to be on his legs, as the term is, in a few hundred yards, he is altogether a more lively, active animal than formerly; and, as such, a useful animal for more ends than one. In former days, not one trained thorough-bred horse in fifty made a hunter. Indeed few sportsmen had the courage to try the experiment of making him one. He went more upon his shoulders, as well as with a straighter knee, than the modern race-horse does, and required much greater exertion in the rider to pull him together in his gallop. All those sportsmen, however, who remember such horses as the late Earl Grosvenor's, John Bull and Alexander, must admit that, in form and substance, they were equal to carrying the heaviest weight across a country, and the last-mentioned horse was the sire of several very powerful, at the same time very brilliant hunters. But as it is action, after all, that carries weight, the thorough-bred horses of this day are not deficient in that respect, unless undersized; and there are more thorough-bred hunters at this period, and have been more for the last thirty years, than were ever known before. This improvement in action also qualifies the full-bred horse for the road, whereas formerly not one in a hundred was fit to ride off turf. Indeed daisy-cutters and thorough-bred horses were nearly synonymous terms; but at present a young lady on a bit of blood is an every-day sight; and a young gentleman on any thing else in the parks, or on his road to hounds, is become rather a rare one. This is a very saving clause to breeders of race-horses, as a market is now generally found for such as are undersized, or tried to be deficient in speed for racing; whereas in former days, a bad race-horse was, like Rosinante, neither saleable nor payable."

So much for racing, races, and racers: we shall next give our idea of a perfect hackney to a gentleman: —

"A well-bred, short-legged, lengthy horse, with very good legs and feet, not under fourteen nor above fifteen hands high, that will walk four miles in the hour, trot eleven or twelve, and, if wanted, will go fifteen in that time in a canter and hand-gallop, without once throwing up his head, or requiring to be pulled up. We are, of course, supposing him to be in good condition, and in strong work, or it would not be fair to exact so much from him. But it is only in cases of necessity that any horse should be made to perform the latter task; for we are averse to trespassing unnecessarily upon the powers and capabilities of so noble an animal. On the contrary, we recommend every indulgence that can be granted to him on a journey, and especially in hot weather. At all times, indeed, it is our interest to do so; but, in very hot weather, a few sips of soft water, often given, keep off fever, and replenish the loss he sustains by exhaustion from excessive

perspiration. One word more respecting action. We are no advocates for very fast trotting. It forces the animal to the very extent of his powers, which, of course, wears him out; it induces his owner either to be constantly displaying these powers in private, or matching him against time in public. Add to this, fast trotting is not a gentlemanlike pace; that is, it has not a gentlemanlike appearance, neither is it agreeable to the rider. This is apparent at first sight, when we follow two horsemen on a road, one on a fast trotter, and the other on a good canter; although going at the same rate, the cantering horse and his rider are both much more at their ease. With the ancient Romans, indeed, a trotting horse was called a tormentor. Nevertheless, we admit that fast trotting is a proof of action in excess, but of a peculiar nature, and is, perhaps, more than any other, transmitted from sire to son, as the produce of the various Norfolk and American trotters have shewn."

Another class of the animal is judiciously described in the annexed: —

"It would be in vain to attempt any standard for road coach-horses. They must be picked up where they can be found, and, if possessed of action, the rest must be left to chance. A good constitution is desirable, for many die in the 'seasoning,' as it is called, on the road, and a young, green horse cuts a poor figure in a fast coach. Coach-masters are too much given to purchase infirm horses, by which they incur loss, for, if quite sound, it is as much as can be expected that they remain so for any moderate length of time; and we believe the average duration of horses in fast work is not more than four years, if purchased sound. Unsound horses, then, cannot be supposed to last nearly so long, independently of the cruelty of driving them. The most likely horse, however, to stand sound, and do his work well in a fast coach, is one that, with sufficient strength, and a good set of limbs, has action sufficiently speedy to admit of his keeping time without going at the top of his pace. When this is the case, he runs his stage, from end to end, within himself, and is as good at the last as he was at the first; but when he cannot command the pace, he soon becomes distressed, and is weak at the end of his stage. This accounts for sundry accidents having occurred by wheel-horses being unable to hold back a loaded coach down hill, at the end of the stage, although they would have been more than equal to it at the beginning of it. In fact, many coach-horses are very good for eight miles, but very bad for ten, so nicely are their powers measured in harness. Above all things, we recommend good legs and feet in working horses, if they are to be had; and an extra price is well laid out in procuring them. Whether they are strong in their harness, in very fast work, cannot be discovered until they are tried; but well-bred ones, having substance, are most likely to prove so. Dr. Johnson, in his 'Rasselas,' makes the artist of the Happy Valley tell the prince he had long been of opinion that, instead of the tardy conveyances of ships and chariots, man might use the swifter migration of wings. There appears something prophetic here, when we read of the contemplated transmission, by all-powerful steam, of a man's person from London to Liverpool in two hours, which would be at a rate that the very 'wings of the winds' never yet equalled. But surely our coaches now travel sufficiently fast, and we should be sorry to see their speed increased beyond what it now is, in consideration for the sufferings of the horses employed in

them. Were they not always running home (for each end of the stage is their home), they would not perform their tasks so well as they now perform them; and it is owing to that circumstance that the accidents in fast coaches are not so numerous as might be expected, night-work and many other things being taken into account."

Our cart-horse is not in such odour with Mr. Aupperley: —

"Errors detected by experience are allowed to be equal to demonstration; but this truism is not admitted by a vast majority of English farmers, who persevere in the use of the heavy black horse for agricultural purposes, for which, solely, he is by no means fitted, from the slowness of his step (independently of his weight), unless very highly fed. As long, however, as the ponderous vehicles made use of in London and elsewhere, for the transmission of heavy goods, are persevered in, this equally ponderous animal may be necessary; but it is certain that lighter horses, in lighter vehicles, would do the business better, that is, more speedily, and at less cost. Notwithstanding the objections to him, the heavy black cart-horse pays well for rearing; for, being always saleable at two years' old, a certain profit is insured, as, for the first year, the expense of keeping him is trifling. If on a large scale, and promising to be fit for the London market, or the best-conducted road waggon, he commands a price that leaves a handsome surplus to the breeder. The chief desiderata in the cart-horse are substance and action. If possessed of the latter, his shoulders and fore-quarters can scarcely be too coarse and heavy; for, drawing being an effort of the animal to preserve himself from the tendency which his weight gives him to the centre of gravity when he inclines forward, so the more weighty he is before, and the nearer he approximates this centre, the more advantageously will he apply his powers. Notwithstanding this, we are not advocates of heavy horses for farmer's work, much less on the road. The lighter horse gets over in eight hours what would take the heavy one ten; and the great improvement in the present mode of culture, and the implements used for agricultural purposes, do not require more weight or strength than what the Suffolk, Clydesdale, Cleveland-bay, and other lighter breeds, are masters of. Besides, there are periods of the year when despatch of business is of great moment to the farmer, which he cannot command in those mountains of horse-flesh which we see labouring in most of the finest districts in England, tiring themselves by their own weight. Travellers on the Continent, occupying land in England, should carry in their eye the form and action of the horses which draw the public carriages, particularly those bred in Picardy, in France. The prevailing colour is iron-roan, and their nature appears to sympathise with that colour; for, speaking figuratively, they are as hard as iron itself. It is not unusual to find four or five of them drawing those cumbersome diligences, weighing perhaps six or seven tons, a twenty-mile stage, at the rate of six miles an hour, preserving up their condition to the highest pitch; and this with hay and corn very inferior in quality to that grown in England. To keep up the condition of the English black cart-horse requires him to consume nearly as much as his labour is worth; and unless he lives well, he is only half alive, which his sluggish action denotes. In fact, his chief fault lies in his having too great a body, and too little spirit; consequently he exhausts himself in the mere act of carrying

that body. The nimbleness of the smaller kinds of cart-horses to which we have alluded is owing to their moderate size; and their immense powers in lifting weight (with the Suffolk, Punch, and Clydesdale breeds, in particular), to the same cause, combined with the low position of the shoulder, which occasions weight to be acted upon in a just and horizontal direction. The Welsh cart-horses, especially those in use in the counties of Denbigh, Merioneth, and Montgomery, are eminently adapted to all agricultural purposes, combining much strength with a great share of activity; and the general criteria of wide breast, with low shoulders, good carcass, and small head, indicate their being good workers, with hardihood of constitution. Their height is about fifteen hands two inches; and their colour black or brown."

There is much useful information conveyed in these remarks, and the whole essay under the title "Horse," is well worthy the writer's reputation as being most conversant with all the mysteries of his subject. From the "Hound" we shall only take one example for variety's sake:—

"The terrier is no longer the accompaniment to a pack of fox-hounds, and for the best of all reasons,—foxes are not nearly so often digged for as formerly; and his only use was, by his bay, to inform the diggers whereabouts the fox lay; and we suppose he took his name from his being so eager to get under ground. There is also a second reason why he is better left at home. He was seldom steady from *wing*, if he was from *foot*, and thus often the cause of riot. It was, however, a matter of astonishment to behold those which were very highly bred, making their way, as they did, to the end of the longest chases, over strong and wet countries, as well as through the thickest cover, and so often making their appearance at the end of them. At all events, if left behind, they were sure to find their way home in the course of the night, whatever the distance might be. One peculiarity of form was essential to their being sure of getting up to their fox, viz. not to full in the shoulder; and those whose colour was pure white, and who were broken-haired, were generally most esteemed by huntsmen. It was often their lot to lose their life, by scratching up the earth behind them, and cutting off their means of retreat: and they were now and then killed by a fox; the latter a rare occurrence. They were commonly entered to a badger, whose bite is more dangerous than that of a fox."

On "Hunting" we shall also confine ourselves to a single extract:—

"The arrangement of earths, and the stopping of them, are matters of no small importance in a hunting country. Artificial ones are sometimes made, but they are reckoned unhealthy for foxes; and the best are those made by badgers, which can always be commanded at pleasure, by turning out those animals in pairs. On the proper and careful stopping of earths every thing depends; for nothing can be more annoying to sportsmen than to have their fox get to ground, just as the hounds have well settled to the scent of him, with every prospect of a run. There are various methods of stopping earths, but none more secure than by a bunch of gorse, or furze, crammed well into the mouth of them, with the stalks pushed inwards. When earths are only slightly stopped, a fox will scratch his way into them; and as this very often happens, it shews the necessity of a careful and experienced earth-stopper; and we agree with Colonel Cook in thinking it

better to pay for each day's stopping, rather than annually in the lump, reserving the power to withhold payment in case of evident neglect. The expense of earth-stopping varies according to the nature of the soil, covers, &c.; but in certain countries it amounts to as much as 200*l.* per annum. It may also surprise some persons to hear that the rent paid for artificial covers, that is, for the land on which they are made, in one hunt alone, in Leicestershire, amounts to upwards of 700*l.* per annum."

That our author is very classical and antiquarian will have been seen from what we have shewn of him; but in the following he is, perhaps, *ultra crepidam* :—

"The fox was ever considered as a mischievous animal, and, in one signal instance, is said to have been made an engine of mischief to a vast extent, in carrying fire and flame into the standing corn of the rebellious Philistines. A solution of this account, however, on natural principles, being difficult, it is pretty generally admitted that a mistake in the translation has given rise to it."

The subjoined is in better taste, and more useful in its way:—

"As the preservation of the fox is now more an object in Great Britain than his destruction, it may not be amiss to observe, that a few links of an iron chain, such as an old plough-trace, or a small piece of red cloth, suspended near to the spot on which a hen-pheasant sits, is a certain protection from foxes, of herself, her eggs, or her brood. It is asserted by sportsmen of experience, that the scent of foxes varies with the animal; and that a vixen fox which has laid up (brought forth) her cubs, is nearly devoid of scent."

In conclusion, we have to notice that our Edinburgh printing does not shine for its verbal accuracy in this volume, as horse, despatch, breeder, &c. are ill-looking substitutes for horse, despatch, and breeder.

The Life of Admiral Viscount Exmouth.

(Concluded.)

In our preceding notice we have traced the hero of this memoir through the earlier portion of his memorable career, and brought him to a state of high professional consideration and honour.

At the end of the war he was raised to the peerage, as "Baron Exmouth, of Canonteign, a mansion and estate in the south of Devon, which he had purchased for a family property; and the pension was settled on him which is usually granted when a peerage is conferred for eminent public services."

But the ever-memorable bombardment of Algiers crowned his naval fame. Justly is it remarked:—

"The battle of Algiers forms a class by itself among naval victories. It was a new thing to place a fleet in a position surrounded by such formidable batteries. Bold, beautiful, and original in the conception, it was most brilliant and complete in execution. Nor was it more splendid for the honour than happy in the fruits. It broke the chains of thousands; it gave security to millions; it delivered Christendom from a scourge and a disgrace. To complete the happiness of the achievement a nation co-operated, the natural ally of England, and the truest of her friends; bound to her by the proudest recollections of patriotism, and the dearest ties of religion; and which, if it should be required once more to strike down the power of whatever evil principle may desolate Europe, will again be found at her side, strong in virtue

as in courage, to emulate her prowess, and to share the triumph."

"Lord Exmouth's services were acknowledged as became such a victory. He was advanced to the dignity of a viscount, and received an honourable augmentation of his arms. In the centre of the shield a triumphal crown was placed by the civic wreath; below was a lion rampant, and above them a ship, lying at the Mole-head of Algiers, and surmounted with the star of victory. The former supporters were exchanged for a lion on the one side, and a Christian slave, holding aloft the cross, and dropping his broken fetters, on the other. The name 'Algiers' was given for an additional motto. The kings of Holland, Spain, and Sardinia, conferred upon him orders of knighthood. The pope sent him a valuable cameo. The city of London voted him its freedom, and a sword, ornamented with diamonds, which was presented by the lord mayor at a banquet, appropriately given by the Ironmongers' Company, as trustees of a considerable estate left for ransoming Christian slaves in Barbary by Mr. Betton, a member of the company, who had himself endured the miseries of slavery. He received the freedom of the city of Oxford, and the honorary degree of D.C.L. from the University. A society lately formed at Paris, chiefly by the exertions of Sir Sidney Smith, for promoting the liberation of Christian slaves, caused a medal to be struck to commemorate the victory. It presents a well-executed profile of the Admiral, with a suitable inscription on the reverse. In general, every disposition was shewn in France to do justice to Lord Exmouth's merit on this occasion. Yet it was to be expected that the feeling so natural under the circumstances of their recent defeat, and the present occupation of their territory, would lead many to detract from the honours of the nation which had so severely humbled them. Some illiberal reflections, which appeared at this time in the French journals, prompted the following lines, by the late Lord Grenville:—

"These hands toll-worn, these limbs by fetters galled,
These bodies, scarred by many a servile blow,
These spirits, wasted by disease and woe,
These Christian souls, by miscreant rage enthralled,
What band of heroes now recalls to life?
Gives us again to hail our native shores,
And to each fond, despairing heart restores
The long-lost parent, the long-widowed wife?
O Britain! still to lawless power a foe,
'Gainst faithless pirate armed, or blood-stained Gaul!
Vain is the taunt which mocks thy lavish cost,
Thy thankless toil, thy blood poured out for all,
Thy laurels, gained in fight, in treaty lost—
Heaven still shall bless the hand which lays th' oppres sor low."

The officers of the squadron presented to their commander a magnificent piece of plate, of 1400 guineas value, representing the mole of Algiers, with its fortifications. The subscription exceeded the cost; and the surplus was paid to the Naval Charitable Society, of which Lord Exmouth was a vice-president. A medal, most appropriate in the devices, and of the most exquisite workmanship, was executed by command of his late majesty, then Prince Regent. The medals are of gold. Only four were allowed to be struck, one of which was presented to Lord Exmouth, and remains in the possession of his eldest surviving son."

At last the scene closes:—

"Early in 1832, after an extraordinary exemption from such trials in his own family, he lost one of his grand-children. He communicated the event with the reflection—'We have long been mercifully spared. Death has at length entered our family, and it behoves us all to be watchful.' Very soon the warning was more severely repeated, in the almost

sudden removal of his youngest daughter. In the spring of this year he was made Vice-admiral of England, and was honoured at the same time with a very flattering letter from his sovereign. This he immediately enclosed to his elder brother, to whom he knew it would give pleasure. Of the appointment itself, he remarked, 'I shall have it only for one year.' He held it but for a few months. In May, Sir Israel Pellew was on his death-bed; and Lord Exmouth, though he now travelled with much difficulty and pain, could not refuse himself the melancholy satisfaction of a parting visit to one with whom he had been so closely and affectionately united. Their brother came up from Falmouth on the same errand, and on this painful occasion they all met for the last time. He then returned to his home, which he never left again. He cherished a very strong attachment to the church; and for more than thirty years had been a member of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, which he joined when the claims of the society were so little appreciated, that only principle could have prompted the step. It might, therefore, be expected that he would feel deep anxiety when the safety of that church was threatened. But upon this subject his mind was firm; and, in one of the last letters he ever wrote, dated August 28th, he declares his confidence in the most emphatic language. After some personal observations to the friend he was addressing, one of his old officers, he alludes to the cholera, then raging in his neighbourhood; 'which,' he says, 'I am much inclined to consider an infliction of Providence, to shew his power to the discontented of the world, who have long been striving against the government of man, and are commencing their attacks on our church. But they will fail! God will never suffer his church to fall; and the world will see that his mighty arm is not shortened, nor his power diminished. I put my trust in him, and not in man; and I bless him, that he has enabled me to see the difference between improvement and destruction.' Not many days after, he suffered a most violent attack of the illness he had long anticipated. The immediate danger was soon averted; but the extent of the disease left not the smallest hope of recovery. He lingered until the 23d of January, calmly awaiting the event which his gradually increasing weakness convinced him was inevitable. Sustained by the principles which had guided him so long, his death-bed became the scene of his best and noblest triumph. 'Every hour of his life is a sermon,' said an officer who was often with him: 'I have seen him great in battle; but never so great as on his death-bed.'

We have only to add that an appendix gives some illustrative documents and sketches of his brothers Israel (as already mentioned) and Samuel, and his friend and flag-captain, Sir Christopher Cole. Admiral Sir Israel Pellew shared many services and fortunes with his brother, and was a gallant and excellent officer. Samuel, the eldest, was bred to the medical profession, but was appointed collector of the customs at Falmouth, where he lived long and was much respected. He seems, from various projects submitted to government, to have been a man of ingenious mind. The following may afford a notion of his duties and activity:—

"Some idea of the character and magnitude of the contraband trade at this period will be obtained from an official statement of the naval force of these brigands on the western coast only, as communicated in a Treasury letter of January 29th, 1785. 'Stag, lugger, 90 tons, 30 men, all provided with small arms; Happy-

go-Lucky, lugger, 80 tons, 35 men, with small arms; Happy-go-Lucky, cutter, 100 tons, 14 guns, 30 men; Glory, shallop, 70 tons, 20 men, small arms; Cutter, name unknown, 120 tons, 16 guns, 4-pounders, 40 men; Sweepstakes, lugger, 250 tons, 26 guns, 12 and 9-pounders, 80 men; with numerous boats, 30 to 40 feet in length, calculated to row from 8 to 12 oars.' Not less audacity was displayed by their confederates on shore. One illustration may be afforded. A man named Carter carried on a wholesale smuggling business at a cove on the eastern side of the Mount's Bay, where he had a range, nominally of fish-cellars, but well known to be wine and spirit stores. As a blind, he kept a public-house, with the head of the King of Prussia for a sign; and from this circumstance he became known by the name of the King of Prussia. He had nothing to fear from the revenue-officers in the neighbourhood, who were either directly in league with him, or deterred from attending a seizure, by knowing what a force he could assemble to the rescue. To guard the coast, he constructed a battery, which he mounted with long six-pounders. The Fairy sloop-of-war was fired upon when she stood in to examine it; and, as she could not safely approach near enough to bear her broadside with effect, she was obliged to send her boats on shore to destroy it. The remains of the battery are still visible, and the spot retains the name of King of Prussia's Cove. Of all the desperadoes infesting the Channel, the most notorious was a Dover man, named Wellard, who commanded an armed lugger of fourteen guns from Folkestone, the Happy-go-Lucky, apparently a favourite name with these characters, and who was the terror of all the officers on the coast. He had been outlawed by name, and it was his avowed determination never to be taken alive. Mr. Pellew was particularly anxious to secure him, and directed his cruisers to make him the first and constant object of pursuit. He once sailed with them himself, upon an information which gave reason to hope that they would meet this Wellard. On another cruise, Lord Exmouth, then a post-captain on half-pay, took command of the Hawk, and went in the depth of winter in search of him. At length, on the 4th of April, 1786, the two cruisers surprised the Happy-go-Lucky at anchor near Mullion Island, in the Mount's Bay. On perceiving them, she cut her cable, and made sail to the westward. At thirty minutes past eight the Hawk brought her to action, and engaged her for three-quarters of an hour, when the Lark came up, and crossing her stern so close as to carry away her outrigger, raked her with an 18-pounder, loaded with grape and canister, which killed Wellard and the chief mate, and wounded twelve of the crew. Then ranging alongside, the Lark fired the rest of her broadside, and the outlaw submitted. * * *

"The crews of these vessels carried on a traffic in game-cocks, which they bought in England. When the Happy-go-Lucky was taken possession of, some of these birds were fighting on the deck, their coops having been destroyed in the action. * * *

"His services (says our author) were not unnoticed by the government. Of Mr. Pitt's favourable opinion he had the evidence of a letter under his own hand, and may claim the living testimony of the Earl of Chatham. He has received the thanks of most of the public Boards for different official services; and the approbation of four successive ministers has been personally expressed to him. The very

distinguished success of his younger brothers might naturally make him wish to rise in his own department. That he was left for almost fifty years in a fourth-class port is a decisive proof that his brothers were not advanced through any family or political influence. At length, having reached his 80th year, yet pressed but lightly with the infirmities of age, he retired to private life."

The misuse of the word "talented" (p. 48), as applied to Lord Exmouth, presents us with that lingual innovation in its most offensive sense. *Talented*, if it mean anything, means the lowest grade of intellect which can be expressed: it is never applied to men of genius, or of superior ability, or even very clever men. It is, in short, a poor apology for praise; and it is here given to an individual whom the writer justly exalts to the height of fame and distinction. In general the style, however, is plain sensible English.

At page 77 we are told that "there were no mines in the immediate neighbourhood of any place where Capt. Pellew had lived," which we cannot understand. Surely they were all around him.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Memorials of the Sea, by the Rev. W. Scoresby, B.D. &c. 12mo. pp. 393. (London, Nisbet.)—Captain Scoresby having exchanged the harpoon for the prayer-book, has here thrown together some of his Arctic remembrances for the sake of enforcing the strict observance of the Sabbath, by shewing that Providence, by special acts and interference, marked its favour of those who obeyed the Divine injunction in that respect. The design is more excusable from an enthusiast than the execution, which tends to fanaticism on one side, or to suggest arguments which might often be successfully opposed to the author's avowed purpose. The account of the horrible murder of his crew by Capt. Stewart, and his becoming the "subject of astonishing mercies," is replete with dangerous doctrines, which, however guarded against by the writer, are likely to mislead mankind into the most fatal errors and crimes.

The Parent's Cabinet of Amusement and Instruction. Pp. 396. (London, Smith, Elder, and Co.)—A nice little book for children, with a diversity of amusing and attractive pieces, historical, moral, fiction, poetry, geographical, and philosophical, adapted to the capacity of juvenile minds.

The Medical Student's Practical and Theoretical Guide to the Translation and Composition of Latin Prescriptions, by J. W. Underwood. (London, Souter.)—Where mistakes may be so dangerous and fatal, and where, perhaps, more unintelligible MS. appears than in any other shape whatever (not to mention barbarous Latin, and contractions *ad. lib.*), it is hardly possible to notice a more useful volume than the present, which, following up the recent exertions of the Court of Examiners of the Apothecaries' Hall, teaches the student how to write, and the dispenser how to read and make up, medical prescriptions, with little chance of error if only common care be taken.

A Protestant Memorial for the Commemoration on the 4th Day of Oct. 1835, of the 3d Centenary of the Reformation, and the Publication of the first entire Protestant English Version of the Bible, Oct. IV. M.D.XXXV., by T. Hartwell Horne, B.D. (London, Cadell; Edinburgh, Blackwood, and Milliken.)—A high Protestant production, which gives a concise history of the Reformation, denounces the errors of the Church of Rome, and zealously recommends the public observance of the 4th of next month, as the anniversary remarkably signified by the events stated on the title-page.

The British Constitution: its Origin and History. Pp. 183. (London, Orton and Smith.)—A popular and well-arranged epitome of the British Constitution in king, lords, and commons, shewing the privileges, &c. of each, and the admirable working of the whole. It is derived from good authorities, and well worthy of a favourable reception from those who may not like the trouble of greater research among more elaborate publications.

Sir W. Scott's Poet Works, Vol. XVII. *Periodical Criticism*, Vol. I. (Edinburgh, Cadell; London, Whittaker.)—Reviews of Ellis' Specimens of Early English Poets (*Edinburgh Review*, 1804 and 1806); of Godwin's Life of Chaucer (*ibid.* 1804); of Todd's Spenser (*ibid.* 1803); of Herbert's Poems (*ibid.* 1806); of Evans' Old Ballads (*Quarterly*, 1810); of Molire (*Foreign Quarterly*, 1828); of Chatterton (*Ed. Rev.* 1804); of Cromek's Reliques of Burns (*Quarterly*, 1809); of Campbell's Gertrude of Wyoming (*ibid.*); of Croker's Talivera (*ibid.*); of Southey's Curse of Kehama (*ibid.* 1811); and of Byron's Childe Harold, Canto IV. (*ibid.* 1818)—show so many specimens of Sir Walter Scott's critical powers on the poems of his predecessor and contemporaries, and form altogether a very interesting volume. A portrait of Lord Jeffrey is prefixed, which does not strike us as being very good; and it is curious to see so many articles written by

a warm Tory, to augment the fame and, consequently, increase the circulation and influence of a periodical to which he was so strenuously opposed in politics, as we have here from the pen of Scott in the *Edinburgh Review*, at the period of its hottest Whiggism, 1804, 5, and 6.

The Tale of "Cinnamon and Pearls," by Miss Harriet Martineau, examined in a *Series of Letters*, originally published in the *Ceylon Gazette*. 12mo. pp. 27. (Colombo, Elders.)—It is seldom we have such distant publications to review; but this is well worthy of note in this country. Miss Martineau, in the fiction referred to, has evidently gone into matters of which she was utterly ignorant; and the writer of these letters corrects her in a multitude of instances. She has succeeded to deepen the pathos or embellish the figure in her picture, by statements quite at issue with real facts and actual circumstances. The pamphlet is ably written and in a good tone; and not only supplies an antidote to the mistakes and misrepresentations in question, but furnishes curious information on many incidental points.

Ex. gr. "Divers (says McCulloch's highly esteemed dictionary) continue under water from a minute to a minute and a half or two minutes." Divers at the Ceylon fisheries rarely remain under water more than from fifty to fifty-five seconds. A reward was offered within these last few years to the diver who should remain longest under water. The man who obtained it was immersed for eighty-seven seconds." Again: "They have a sack or bag fastened to their neck"—that is not the case; the sack or net is fastened to a cord held by a man in the boat: when the sack is full, the diver gives a signal by shaking the cord, and it is drawn up with its contents.

The same cord assists the diver to the surface if he chooses to take advantage of it. "Divers are unhealthy and short-lived"—so far from that being the case, the natives believe that divers live longer than coolies or labourers. It is a mistake (but not made by Mr. McCulloch) to suppose that the chief employment of divers is when engaged in a pearl-fishery. The divers alive daily for that purpose are pearl-fishers; to them what a regatta the London watermen, a sort of holiday prize!

Cooper's Life and Works. Vol. VIII. Pp. 431. (London, Saunders and Otley.)—This is a thick volume, and contains, we should estimate, some three hundred of Cooper's minor and miscellaneous poems, hymns, translations, &c. There is also a sketch of the Life of Mr. Newton, a portrait of Dr. John Johnson, engraved by E. Finden, and a pretty vignette; so that it is entirely worthy of the popularity which has attended this edition.

The Drama Vindicated, by John Denman. 18mo. pp. 120. (Cambridge, Smith; London, Onwyn.)—A temperate and judicious vindication of the drama, reclaiming for it and its reputable professors that degree of respect which is due to them, and which is only impugned by bigotry, and impaired by the misconduct of those bad characters who have been allowed to interfere too much with the stage, whether as patrons, managers, or actors.

Colburn's Modern Novelists, Vol. IX.: *The Disowned,* Vol. II., completes this pretty edition of one of Mr. Bulwer's most admired productions, and is a great recommendation to the series. The embellishments, however, might be amended: they are tame in action and want character.

The Scripture Teacher's Assistant, by Henry Altham, Pp. 142. (London, Davis.)—A second edition of a small book of much practical utility, and altogether well adapted for conveying instruction to the young in Sunday schools or families. The plan of reading the verses, and then founding a series of questions upon them till they are thoroughly understood, is the best that can be followed.

1. *Questions and Answers on the Reigns of the Four Georges.* (Chester, Seacombe.)—2. *Progressive German Reader,* by J. G. Tiarks. (London, Wacey.)—3. *Synopsis of Greek Grammar.* (Cambridge, Grant.)—Small educational works of a useful description; but requiring no particular notice.

ARTS AND SCIENCES. THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

No. V.

We have commented freely and impartially upon the proceedings of the British Association, at its annual meetings, pointing out such things as appeared to us to detract from the general efficacy of the original plan, and the progress of subsequent improvements likely to be suggested by its practical working. But it has never occurred to us, nor can it occur to any fair or unprejudiced mind, to deprecate the utility of such an Institution; to accuse it of all kinds of folly; and to deny that it is calculated to advance, in an eminent degree, the best and truest interests of science.

None but too warm partisans and unthinking panegyrists will, by pretending to too much, bring its real benefits into question; and none but wilfully blinded or ignorant adversaries will resort to abuse or ridicule, in order to produce similar doubts and injure what they cannot

destroy. The genuine and enlightened friends of the Association are aware that no striking discoveries, no extraordinary productions, no wonderful and entirely novel improvements, are to be looked for at these meetings. They are not the likely theatres for such results; for men who have fortunately arrived at them would be crazy were they to postpone their annunciation till this yearly public opportunity was offered for that *éclat*. But the mere collision of intellects occupied in the same pursuits; the discussion of problematical points; the saving of time and trouble to the younger and less informed, by the *dicta* of the elder and more experienced, in each and all the physical sciences brought forward; the stimulus to future exertion, not only by the example of fellow labourers but by the stirring voice of popular approbation (dear even to the gravest and sternest philosopher); the facilities for extended observation; the creation of friendships and good-will to co-operate with and assist inquiry,—surely these and other concomitant circumstances cannot but very materially tend to the progress of human knowledge, and that, too, in a way most agreeable and consoling to human feelings.

The people of Ireland expected much from the late meeting, and in our judgment it has done and will do much good. In the first place, it actually dissipated long-standing and fierce political asperities. Members of the Association met in amity, who had been politically and personally hostile to each other for long years; and it is no mean advantage to induce men to forget or lay aside their enmities, to shake hands, and unite in the pursuit of any common object. Agreement in one thing disposes to agreement in others; and, at all events, were it for this alone, we would say that the meeting at Dublin was a national good.

And another national advantage must, we are convinced, arise from its having led several hundred intelligent persons to see the country with their own eyes, and examine it in every province by the light of their own senses. The information thus acquired will tend to disabuse other portions of the empire of very false notions with respect to Ireland; the bane of which it is to have been misrepresented by parties and factions on all sides, till it was impossible for any one to recognise a single feature which in truth belonged to the distracted land. This will be in a great measure corrected by the influence of the members to whom we have alluded, most of whom pertain to public bodies, and are much looked to in general society, where their opinions have just weight.

We have been led to offer these few remarks, in consequence of reading, in the last *John Bull*, a bitter and satirical attack upon the Association (founded, indeed, on our own reprehension of the anatomical and phrenological exhibitions permitted, in regard to Mr. Mathews', Dean Swift's, and Stella's mortal remains); and which has pointed the severe wit of the writer so much after the fashion of an infernal machine, that if every barrel took effect there would not be one branch of science left standing, as worthy of cultivation and endurance. If physics, natural history, statistics, mechanics, medicine, geology, &c. are nothing more than gross absurdities, the sooner they are proscribed the better; but till then it will require even more than our worthy friend's power of sarcasm to put out of the pale of rationality the members of an Institution by whom they are so diligently and effectually promoted.

We return now to our detail of the proceedings. Though, amid the bustle of the meeting,

and the distraction of being attracted to several quarters at once, where we wished to obtain the information of greatest general interest, we could only indicate some of these topics and discussions, we did not lose sight of our duty to procure full and authentic reports of such of them as seemed to us most curious, and we could obtain, for the *Literary Gazette*. It is generally felt that those who have really valuable matter to communicate are accessible and liberal, where it is desirable and desired to gratify the interest taken by the public in their investigations; and, as no subject could be more germane to a periodical work than the account of a new material for

PAPER-MAKING, &c. from BOG-PEAT, we have much pleasure in continuing our report, with Mr. Mallet's experiments

"On the Manufacture of White or Bleached Pulp, for the purpose of making Paper from certain varieties of Peat or Pulp."

A cheap and yet good substitute for hemp-rags, for the purpose of affording a pulp fit for paper-making, has long been a desideratum with the manufacturer. Many attempts have been made to procure one, but the difficulties of finding one such as would suit the required conditions, and the duty and cost of hemp-rags, have induced adulteration to a vast extent in the paper-manufacture. Much of the letter-paper now in use owes its apparent thickness and stiff, close texture, to an intimate admixture of the pulp or vegetable fibres with a cream of plaster of Paris or whiting. Brown paper is adulterated with ground clay, and, for similar purposes, curriers' shavings, chopped wool and hair, cotton-flyings, thistledown, and other similar materials, have been occasionally tried: but from none of them has good paper ever been made; and amongst the many experiments that have been attempted with them, being the only one that has been brought into successful use, is that of the manufacture of paper from straw, which answers tolerably for some purposes, though not for writing on, and is now made in some few places very extensively.

Under these circumstances, it appeared probable that nature might afford some vegetable fibres, of a texture sufficiently fine for making paper, and which had never undergone any manufacturing process; and, on looking around, the *confervae* of fresh-waters, and also certain varieties of turfs or peats, suggested themselves. The former was soon found too fragile, and its structure unfit to resist the action of the bleaching re-agents.

It is generally known that a peat-bog, and especially those of Ireland, consists of various strata, varying in density and other properties in proportion to their depth. The top surface of the bog is usually covered with living plants, chiefly mosses, heaths, and certain aquatic or paludose plants; immediately beneath this lies a stratum varying from only two or three inches to four or five feet, according to the state of drainage of the bog, of a spongy, reddish-brown, fibrous substance, consisting of the remains of vegetables, similar in appearance to those living on its surface, in the first stage of decomposition.

The chemical state of this stratum is nearly that of some of the papyri found in moist places in Herculaneum; that is to say, having long been exposed to the action of water, at nearly a mean temperature, the vegetable juices have nearly all been converted into ulm-in-geine, or impure extractive matter, and the fibres remain nearly untouched, together, probably, with some of the essential oils of the original plants.

It therefore seemed that, if these fibres, which were apparently sufficiently fine for the purpose, could be separated from their colouring matters, the object would be nearly, if not entirely attained; to this, therefore, attention was directed, and was attended with success. It is unnecessary here to enter into any detail of experiments, or into any elaborate disquisition as to the principles concerned, in making a white pulp from this material, either as regards the manufacturer or the pure chemist; presuming these to be already understood, the process may be briefly stated as follows:—

The proper description of turf being selected, is soaked in cold water until all its parts are softened, and, to a certain extent, disintegrated; it is then bruised in a suitable engine, in cold water, which is continually agitated and renewed, so that all pulverulent matter (or new dust while the turf is dry) may be washed off. The so-far cleaned fibres are then partially dried by strong pressure, in hair bags, under the hydraulic press, or by other suitable means, and then by suitable sieves and winnowing; all roots, sticks, or other gross matter incapable of being bleached, are removed. The fine, uniform, brown fibres, or rather minute stems, leaves, &c. &c. are then placed in proper vats, and digested in the cold; that is, at ordinary temperatures, with a very dilute solution of caustic potash, or soda; preferring that made from what is called in commerce, 'black potash.'

After some time, nearly the whole of the geine and other extractive matter is removed, in combination with the alkali. The fibres are again pressed dry, or nearly so, from the digesting liquor, and are now found to be of a dark fawn colour, in place of their former deep red brown. They are next transferred into an exceedingly dilute sulphuric acid, containing not more than fifty grains of acid of commerce to the quart of water. They remain in this at the common temperature for some time, generally about four hours, but varying with the kind of turf; this separates the iron and earthy matters from the fibre, and carries off the adhering portions of potash and of ammonia, if any exist in the turf, which is occasionally the case. The fibres are now washed with pure cold water, until they cease to give any acid re-action, and are finally pressed nearly dry, and immersed in a dilute solution of chloride of lime; in this they remain at common temperature until sufficiently white for the purpose of the paper-maker, and, on being removed, will generally be found fine enough, as to fibre, for immediate manufacture; but, if not, are to be reduced by the ordinary rag-engine, or other suitable machinery.

By this process it is calculated that about eighteen pounds' weight of pure white, fine pulp may be procured from 100 weight of the raw or native turf.

Returning now to the solution of the potash, which has carried off the geine, &c., and which is chiefly, in fact, a gelinate of potash; it is treated with dilute sulphuric acid, slightly in excess, and filtered through a calico or linen cloth. The potash is taken up by the acid, and the geine and extractive matter precipitate, and are collected on the filter, from which being removed, they are dried by a steam or water-bath, and become a valuable pigment.

Vandyke brown has long been known to painters in both oil and water-colours. This is it, in fact, in its purest form; it is an extremely rich, glowing colour, and valuable for its permanence, as scarcely any agent ordinarily met with is capable of affecting it.

When once perfectly dried, it becomes insoluble in water, and, therefore, is not in the least deliquescent, but it is still soluble in alkalies; thus possessing two properties eminently fitting it for the uses of the paper-stainer and scene-painter, &c. &c. It is perfectly miscible with gum, mucilages, and with oils.

The liquid from which this colour or bistro has been separated now contains various sulphates in solution, chiefly of iron, lime, and alumina; but the major part, sulphate of potash, or soda, whichever has been employed: if the former, Glauber's salt may be made from it, and if the latter, alum, as matters of commerce. The quantity of alkali used is small in proportion to the amount of fluid; but if the operations were very extensive, this economical use of them should be attended to.

After the fibre has been some time digested in the solution of chloride of lime, in most cases a resinous-looking matter floats upon the surface of the fluid in very minute quantity. This, when a large quantity is operated on, may, by careful management, be collected, and is found to be a species of artificial camphor, mixed with some gum resin, and probably an essential oil. This substance, or mixture of substances, possesses some singular characters: it would seem probable that the artificial camphor is produced by the action of some fine chlorine upon turpentine, existing in minute quantity in the turf; and it is a curious subject for reflection, that chemistry should thus, as it were, recal into existence and decompose the turpentine existing in, and produced by trees or plants which have for hundreds of years ceased to have life, or to exist as vegetables. As the properties, so far as they have been ascertained, of this singular substance are purely chemical, it is unnecessary here to detail them. It is not to be procured from every specimen of red or surface turf.

Some specimens of turf have been met with, unfit, however, for paper-making, from which it would appear to be profitable to manufacture bistro and ammonia, from the very appreciable quantity of the latter they contain.

This fibrous red surface turf, when dry, is extremely tough, and is proposed being also applied as a substitute for mill-boards, or board-paper, for the use of engineers, &c. It is capable, when dry, of immense compression by the hydraulic press; and as the fibres naturally lie nearly all in one plane, they thus arrange themselves, so as to give great toughness and flexibility to a plate of it when compressed. Accordingly, suitable masses of this turf are placed in a strong cast-iron, or other vessel, and the air exhausted; the vessel is then filled with a mixture of dilute solution of glue and molasses, at a boiling heat, which fills all the pores of the turf. The masses are then removed, while hot, and exposed to powerful pressure in a hot-press, in a similar way to hot-pressing paper, which reduces them to the required thickness, that of the original mass having been previously properly regulated. The plates so formed are found, when cold, to be hard, tough, and flexible, and will answer almost every purpose of mill-board. They are not injured by high-pressure steam. Many other substances may be used, according to circumstances, for filling the pores, previous to pressure—as fat, oiled, boiling coal-tar, wax, &c. &c.

It is worthy of remark, that the substance proposed being used for all the above processes, is the worst turf for burning; so that the material which is worst, and nearly valueless as fuel, is the best and most valuable, by a fortunate coincidence, for manufacturers. If, there-

fore, as there is reason to believe, the lower strata of turf can, by certain modes of charring, be made a valuable fuel, and the upper and more recent strata are used for the purposes of the various manufactures above adverted to, there is strong ground of hope that, at a future period, the bogs of Ireland, instead of being contemplated, as hitherto, as a blot and stain upon her fair and fertile champaign, may be looked upon as one of the centres of her industry, and the richest sources of her wealth."

We are sure we need hardly direct attention to this interesting portion of our British Association Report; which is of valuable concernment, not only to so many arts and businesses, but to the public at large.

We examined specimens of the pulp, described as being yielded from peat, at the rate of eighteen per cent, and have no hesitation in saying that it appeared to be white, pure, and perfectly suited to the manufacture of paper. We should like to print a *Literary Gazette* upon it, after it had undergone the needful concoction from Mr. Dickinson's beautiful mills.

With respect to the bistro colour, we were assured, by a very competent judge, that he considered it quite eligible for the use of the artist, the house-painter, and the paper-stainer. He also spoke favourably of the mill-boards formed by the operation described; and had no doubt but that the other products from the combinations employed, such as alum, Glauber's salt, artificial camphor and ammonia, would fully answer the purposes of commerce.

Ireland, we believe, is blessed with two millions of acres of bog (of which 1,300,000 are susceptible of drainage and cultivation*); and if it should be convertible into so many useful articles of consumption, how prodigious must be the sources of employment and improvement which it will open to the view of the statesman and philanthropist! It was a good-humoured jest with the populace, that the Association was planning to distil the bogs into whisky! instead of the cup of Circe, Mr. Mallet's manipulation of them would present provision, plenty, and civilisation, where now only deserts and wretchedness exist.

Another object brought forward at the meeting by Captain Sabine, struck us as being of still higher importance in a scientific point of view; and we rejoice in being able to lay the subjoined accurate report upon it before our readers.

The state of electricity and magnetism towards the south pole has become, from all recent investigations at the opposite pole, of greater philosophical interest than ever; and any expedition to ascertain it will excite very general and earnest curiosity. Poor Weddell, whose death we lately announced, has still the honour attached to his memory, of having approached the nearest to the 80th degree (about 74°); like the mariners of old, too, in a frail merchant bark. Biscoe,† in 1831-2, hardly got

* According to Parliamentary returns: the greatest depth forty-five feet; and the average depth twenty-eight feet.—*Ed. L. G.*

† In the brig *Tula*, which performed a superb voyage all around the antarctic. The aurora seen would famously bother Sir John Ross's speck-and-span-new hypothesis; for, "Captain Biscoe, in noticing it in his journal, appears almost at a loss for words to describe its magnificence. Sometimes it was rolling above the vessels in bright columns of light, then assuming a beautiful fringelike appearance, and again darting out radiant streams in serpentine directions through the atmosphere; in short, it was allowed by Captain Biscoe to be, without exception, the grandest phenomenon he had ever witnessed. So exceedingly interesting was the scene, that although the vessels were in considerable danger, and although, with a smart breeze, they were engaged in threading through the ice by which they were surrounded, the seamen could with difficulty be induced to withdraw

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within the Antarctic Circle (about 69°); and Cooke's utmost point was about 7°. Much is therefore left for discovery, and sincerely do we trust that Captain Sabine's recommendation, followed up by the influence of the Society, and aided by the first mover's instructions and instruments, approaching to perfection, will lead to a successful enterprise, reflecting honour on the country, on science, and on all concerned in its promotion and execution.

THE MAGNETIC POLES ?

Captain Sabine gave an account to the Mathematical and Physical Section, of M. Hansteen's " Magnetismus der Erde." This work had its origin in the following prize question, proposed by the Royal Society of Sciences at Copenhagen: — " In order to explain the magnetic phenomena of the earth, is one magnetic axis sufficient, or must we assume more ? " To meet this question thoroughly, and upon the fullest consideration of the phenomena, M. Hansteen's first care was to collect together, and to arrange according to their dates, all the observations that had been made on the three principal phenomena of terrestrial magnetism, the dip, the variation, and the intensity, in all parts of the world, and by individuals of all nations. These are printed in an appendix of 148 quarto pages, and are a most valuable repository of facts for all persons who may hereafter interest themselves in the subject, either in forming or in testing hypotheses, which may serve to connect them, or in investigating the true cause, or causes, of such remarkable and apparently complex phenomena. With these materials M. Hansteen constructed maps, exhibiting the lines of equal dip, and of equal variation, corresponding to different epochs, from the year 1600 downwards. The lines of equal dip are lines connecting those places on the earth's surface where the needle, freely suspended, points with the same end or pole an equal amount below the horizon. The lines of equal variation are lines connecting those places on the earth's surface where the needle, limited to an horizontal motion, deviates an equal amount from the geographical meridian. A comparison of the lines thus represented, with the directions which the lines of equal dip and equal variation should follow in conformity with the hypothesis of a single magnetic axis, placed beyond doubt the irreconcilability of the phenomena with that hypothesis. The maps of every epoch manifested the existence of four points of magnetic influence on the globe, two in the northern hemisphere, attracting the north pole of the needle, and two in the southern hemisphere, attracting the south pole of the needle. A comparison of the maps of different epochs manifested also a change in the geographical position of these influential points; the two in the northern hemisphere moving to the eastward, and the two in the southern hemisphere to the westward. It was also seen that in each hemisphere one of the points was of more powerful influence than the other; and these points were further distinguished by having a slower motion than the points of weaker influence.

This arrangement of the phenomena naturally suggested an hypothesis of two mag-

netic axes; one, more powerful, formed by connecting the two stronger and slower moving points; and the other, less powerful, formed by connecting the two weaker, or quicker moving points. Employing Euler's formulae, M. Hansteen computed the lines of variation for each of these axes separately; and upon comparing these with the phenomena, he found that the variations observed over the whole surface of the globe fell every where between the limits assigned by the consideration of each axis separately. In the immediate vicinity of each of the points, or poles, the observed variations corresponded with the calculation belonging to the axis of that pole; and in all other places, they approximated to one or the other calculation, according to the proximity of the places in which they were observed to the poles of either axis. The lines of dip agreed, also, with this hypothesis, having a point of flexure, distinguishing them from the simply circular lines belonging to a single axis, and indicating, by the amount of flexure, the effect of a more powerful and of a weaker influence. The lines of equal intensity were also accordant; not coinciding with the lines of equal dip, as would be the case from a single axis, but so cutting them, that each line of dip had its point of maximum and its point of minimum intensity.

Having traced this general accordance, M. Hansteen proceeded to establish rules for the more exact calculation of the phenomena, according to his hypothesis. He investigated experimentally the elementary laws of magnetic attraction; and, proceeding from these, derived convenient formulae for computing the dip, variation, and force, at any given point of the earth's surface, as produced by the joint action of two axes, however circumstanced in regard to position, relative strength, and other particulars. Having then selected the most trustworthy observations of these phenomena at 84 stations, taken indiscriminately over the earth's surface, he compared the calculation with the observation; the result may be stated as follows, and is as nearly as possible in his own words: 1st. That, excepting in places situated in the vicinity of the magnetic poles (where the rapid convergency of the lines brings widely differing variations within a few miles of each other), the errors in the calculated variations are almost always under five degrees. 2d. That there is a similar accordance in the observed and computed dips, with the exception of two localities; one being a strip of the Atlantic extending from Teneriffe in a S.W. direction to about 14°N. latitude; and the other a strip of the Indian Ocean, from the straits of Babelmandeb to the Indian Peninsula. In the first the calculated north dips are from 10° to 11° too small, and in the second the calculated north dips from 1° to 12° too large, and the south dips about as much too small. In all other places the differences are mostly under 5°, and in most are quite insignificant. 3d. That the intensities are also accordant, except in the strip of the Atlantic above-mentioned, where the calculated intensities, as well as the dips, are too small. No observations have yet been made in the strip of the Indian Ocean; M. Hansteen remarks, that the 84 stations which have served for this comparison extend over the most important (magnetic) parts of the earth's surface, including the vicinities of the magnetic poles and the magnetic equator; and that it is not probable that greater differences between the observed and calculated phenomena will be found any where than those shewn by this comparison. The still existing differences manifest, however, that the ele-

ments of calculation still require some correction, which they will best receive when more observations are obtained near the magnetic poles and along the line of no dip.

Shortly after the publication of his work, M. Hansteen proceeded, at the appointment of the Danish government, and with the sanction of the Emperor of Russia, to the Russian dominions in the north of Asia, for the purpose of determining with precision the position of the weaker pole in the northern hemisphere, which he had inferred would be found at present to the north of Siberia. He has recently returned, having, it is understood, thoroughly succeeded in the object of his undertaking, and he is now occupied in preparing an account for publication.

At the same time that M. Hansteen was thus employed, our distinguished countryman, Captain James Ross, was engaged in determining with similar exactness the situation of the stronger pole in the northern hemisphere, which is to the north of America.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Captain Sabine took the occasion to call the attention of the Section to the importance of now making our knowledge of the phenomena of the earth's magnetism complete, by ascertaining the position of the two southern poles at a period as nearly coinciding as possible with the determination that has been made of that of the two northern poles. The southern poles are situated, the stronger one to the south of New Holland, and the weaker one in the southern part of the Pacific, probably about S.E. of New Zealand. A voyage made along the edge of the southern ice, from the meridian of 80° E. eastwardly to the meridian of 260° E., would cut the lines of variation converging rapidly to each of the poles in succession; and, combined with observations of the dip and intensity, for which the ice would present continual opportunities (according to the experience of our northern voyagers), would, in all probability, determine the situation of these poles, as well as if the actual localities in which they are situated were reached.

The suggestion of Captain Sabine was discussed in the committee of the Mathematical and Physical Section, and was by them brought under the consideration of the general committee of the Association; and, on the last day on which the members of the Association were assembled, it was announced, that a resolution had passed the committee to address government with a view to the appointment of an expedition to determine the situation of the two southern magnetic poles; and that a permanent committee had been named, to consider maturely the route which would be most desirable for such an expedition to follow.

In our Report of the General Meeting on Saturday in the Rotunda, we stated the amount recommended by the committee to be voted for the purposes of the Association; of which we now give particular items, mounting to within about 400£. of the whole sum so recommended; the remainder not being specific.

In Section A., besides some small grants for indices and tables of temperature, &c.—

For duplicate reduction of the astronomical observations at L'Ecole Militaire, Paris	£500
For determining the constant of lunar notation	100
For observations on the temperature of the tide	100
For continuing tidal observations at Liverpool and London	100
For continuing Professor Heatstone's experiments	250
For reducing to practice Dr. Jerrard's plan for solving equations the fifth or higher degrees	30
	30
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In Section B.—
For completing Professor Johnston's tables of chemical constants: to the professor 30
For continuing experiments on the hot and cold blasts in iron-works: to Mr. Fairburn* 30

In Section C., besides renewing the grants for determining the sediments in rivers, and the relative levels of land and sea—

For further researches into British fossil ichthyology 105

In Section D., no direct grant, but a recommendation to investigate the zoology and botany of Ireland.

In Section E.—
For researches into the absorbents 50
For researches into the sounds of the heart 50

1275
Recommendations to Mr. Halswell to prepare a tabular return of the inquests held during the last seven years in as many counties as could be ascertained; and a statistical report of Hanwell Lunatic Asylum.

CAPTAIN BACK.

Captain Back arrived at Liverpool on Tuesday, in the packet North America.

The *Montreal Gazette*, after announcing his safe return in high health and spirits, states that Dr. King and the rest of the expedition were left at Fort Reliance, all well, and intending to proceed for England by way of Hudson's Bay. No casualty had occurred except the death of Williamson, a volunteer artilleryman, who died on the journey back to Hudson's Bay station. He was an elderly man, and unable to undergo the fatigue of the expedition; and, though accompanied by two Canadians well acquainted with the country, separated from them and perished. Capt. Back despatched men in all directions to search for him, but his body was not found for a considerable time.

Captain Back is further stated to have traced Great Fish River to the sea; and it is said to be large, but dangerous of navigation, and greatly impeded by ice. This river may, nevertheless, open a new channel of communication with the polar waters. Captain Back's observations on the aurora and magnetic poles, as he approached the north, are looked for with much interest, and will, doubtless, throw important light upon problems respecting which our present Number contains so much valuable information.

The extreme cold experienced (say the Montreal papers) was 70° below zero. Capt. B. left Fort Reliance March 20th, travelled on snow-shoes to Fort Chippewyan, whence he departed May 28th, and arrived at Lachin on the 6th of August.

We presume that Capt. James Ross will now proceed on his mission by sea to the Arctic Circle, which, we believe, only waited the return of Capt. Beck, the vessel being already selected, and nearly fitted for the voyage. From his enterprise an superior intelligence, everything is to be expected.

FINE ARTS.

A Historical Sketch of the Art of Sculpture in Wood, from the earliest Period to the present Time. By Robert Folkestone Williams, author of "Rhymes and Rhapsodies," &c. 12mo. pp. 109. London, 1835. Library of the Fine Arts, Charles Street, Soho Square. It appears that the publication of which the above is the title, though very curious and valuable in itself, is a precursor to one of greater magnitude and importance; that it is like a trial balloon, sent up to ascertain the current of air, before the larger machine

* Fair-burn is a good name for such experiments.—*P. Diabolus.*

liberated from its restraining cords. "The following pages," says Mr. Williams, "have been written as a popular compendium of the most interesting information that can be acquired upon the subject; the author having in preparation a more elaborate work for those who are desirous of a complete book of reference, in which every thing relating to timber, architecture, and sculpture in wood, will be lucidly arranged, and philosophically treated."

In the mean while, we have been much gratified and instructed by the perusal of the present volume; and are of opinion that Mr. Williams has completely succeeded in the object which he professes to have had in view in its composition; namely, "to render it sufficiently learned for the general reader, while, to the practical student, it may serve as a preliminary dissertation to the work to which he has alluded."

The volume commences with a brief, but able defence of the utility of the fine arts; of which it is justly asserted, that, "according to the degree in which they are cultivated in different countries, will always be found the intelligence of the people." The author proceeds to lament "that almost all writers on art have totally omitted mentioning works of sculpture in wood, or, when they have taken notice of them, have done so in a most cursory and unsatisfactory manner." And yet, "it is the origin of every kind of sculpture."

"There can scarcely be a doubt that the first material on which the efforts of primitive sculpture was employed was wood; for it was most easily obtained, and could be fashioned with greater facility than any more durable and less convenient substance. In the earliest ages of the world, timber trees of every variety abounded in the inhabited portions of the globe. These could easily be made available for the rude purposes of the artificers of the time, long before a greater degree of civilisation and a sufficient knowledge of design had disclosed the resources of the mine and the quarry; and had invented tools and machinery to convey them to more convenient situations, and form them into objects of art. It follows that the first artist in wood was the first sculptor; what were the first efforts at design it is not so easy to prove, but every probability exists that they were small figures intended to represent idols, or attempts to imitate natural objects. A tolerable idea may be entertained of what knowledge existed in that early period, by examining the sculptural works of a people living in a similar state of barbarism. Captain Cook found among the South Sea islanders, and in other uncivilised places, many specimens of carving in wood—such as objects of idolatry, ornamented weapons, and other things made of the same material, embellished in a similar manner. Specimens are in the British Museum. These are examples of the first stage of art."

That the material for the early exercise of the sculptural art was wood, is further shewn by various extracts from the Bible, which place that fact in a very clear point of view; and "the writing of Pausanias, Lucian, Livy, and Arian, are authentic records that in Greece the most celebrated sculptors, particularly during the age of Pericles, worked in ivory, gold, cedar, and ebony."

"After the establishment of Christianity, the art of sculpture in wood was liberally employed in adorning edifices of Christian worship. The wealthy potentates of the church and the powerful princes of Christendom, appeared desirous of emulating each other in their patronage of the arts of design, for the purpose of erecting

and ornamenting ecclesiastical buildings—imagineing that the more richly the temple of the Deity was decorated, the more honoured would be the prayers offered up within its sanctuary. During the reign of Roman Catholic supremacy, every new church that was designed afforded increased scope for the exercise of the ingenuity of the embellisher. The architect, the painter, and the sculptor, were constantly employed, and the resources of their genius continually developed. In Germany, more than in any other country, sculptors in wood seem to have been encouraged; for not only are the churches there richly decorated with exquisite carvings, but palatial edifices, the chateaux of the nobility, and even the residences of the wealthier citizens, boast of sculptural works, in the same material, in every variety, and of superior merit."

In Holland and Belgium the same patronage of the art prevailed. And

"In this country there exists abundant evidence to prove that the English endeavoured to keep pace with their continental neighbours in the application of ornamental sculpture to religious and domestic structures. In every specimen of Gothic architecture in England may be observed a multitude of such embellishments, in endless variety, and of extraordinary excellence, principally carved in stone: but, besides these, in almost all the cathedrals, the stalls, pulpits, and sometimes many other portions of the edifice, will be found enriched with a profusion of carved work, representing flowers and foliage, grotesque figures or emblematic devices, cut out of the solid wood, in a style remarkably characteristic and beautiful."

Mr. Williams points out a number of fine existing specimens of this style of sculpture. The following passage is amusing—

"There are many bas-reliefs, particularly those carved underneath the seats of the choirs of different religious structures, that represent grotesque, and even obscene subjects, altogether at variance with the sacred character of the buildings in which they are placed. Something of this kind may be observed in Worcester cathedral, in Ely cathedral, in the priory church of Great Malvern, and in many other ecclesiastical edifices. What may be thought most singular is, that the sculptures sometimes represent priests, and other religious persons, engaged in actions of a very profane description. For a satisfactory reason for this, I am indebted to my friend, Mr. Cottingham. The sculptors who executed those carvings were the caricaturists of the time; and, as different religious communities were frequently at variance with each other, they employed these artists to satirise their mutual follies and vices. Under their seats they concealed from the public eye, but exposed for their own private gratification, a series of pictorial libels. In one place, the monks of a certain order are represented as licentious, ridiculous, and depraved: in the building belonging to these holy fathers will, probably, be found a similar series of bas-reliefs, exposing the secret debaucheries of the sacred brotherhood by whom they have been libelled—but never, in any church, will a priest of that order be represented in an unholy character. He will very likely be discovered thus pictured in the church of the Franciscan, while the follower of St. Francis receives the same treatment from the Carthusian brethren in their own building. The various monastic establishments, which at one time were exceedingly numerous in England, generally regarded each other with considerable jealousy; and, more than once,

their animosities and squabbles have disturbed the peace of the kingdom, and brought disgrace upon the unreformed religion. This occasioned some of our most ancient ecclesiastical edifices to be disfigured with grotesque and offensive designs."

It appears that "in the reign of Elizabeth, the art of sculpture in wood may be said to have arrived at its zenith. At that period, not only the houses of the nobility were adorned with this workmanship, but articles of furniture made of British woods were richly carved, to render them in accordance with the prevailing taste."

Of the celebrated Grindling Gibbons, Mr. Williams says, that "he may be considered as the last of our native carvers in wood whose works deserve a European reputation." The admirable carvings in France, in Spain, and in Portugal, are noticed. "But (adds our author) in Italy sculpture in wood arrived at a state of perfection, exceeding the excellence gained by foreign artists in the same art. This superiority, I imagine, arose from the generous encouragement its professors received from the Church of Rome. Works on a large scale were continually in progress, ordered by some wealthy prelate or powerful prince; and palaces and churches became enriched by the genius of the artist." For a particular account of these sculptors in wood we must refer our readers to the volume. The list concludes with the name of Andrea Brustolini; unquestionably the greatest of them all; of whose wonderful statues of the reformers, which formerly supported the library of the church of the Dominican Friars at Venice, dedicated to St. John and St. Paul, but which are now exhibiting in London,* Mr. Williams gives an animated and admirable description:—

"If ever (he observes) the sublime was approached, it is seen in these sculptures. When we bring into consideration the wonderful variety of expression in the countenances—the surprising boldness and beauty in the arrangement of the drapery, equally varied—the extraordinary life-like energy and majesty visible in the position of the limbs, in no two instances placed in the same posture—the vastness of the sculptor's design, his fidelity to nature in all its details—the material upon which he worked, and the difficulties he must have had to surmount before he completed his conception; it is impossible to avoid bestowing a prodigal share of praise on the genius of Brustolini, while a disposition is felt to regard his productions as perfect miracles of art. The pedestals divide admiration with the statues; for the distortion of the features, under the action of the most intense suffering—the scorched appearance of the flesh, enduring the burning heat of the damned—the flames and snakes, that occupy on the head the place of the hair—and the shrivelled arms and hands, that hang helplessly on each side, are executed with a semblance of reality quite startling."

We shall be very desirous of seeing the quarto edition of this interesting work; especially as "it will be illustrated with numerous engravings of the finest specimens of art, from drawings taken by the first draftsmen;" and, among them, of the exquisite statues by Brustolini, to which we have just alluded.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Stanfield's Coast Scenery. Parts II., III., and IV. Smith, Elder, and Co.

THESE parts fully sustain the high character

* This remarkable exhibition was noticed in the *Literary Gazette* on its opening, some months ago.

which we gave of this publication on its commencement. They contain views of "Dartmouth Castle," "St. Malo," "Coast of Brittany," "Porchester Castle," the "Needles," "Stonehouse Bridge, Plymouth," "Portsmouth Harbour," the "Semaphore, Portsmouth," the "Arched Rock, Isle of Wight," and "Havre de Grace;" all of which are in every respect admirably executed. The descriptions are full and interesting; more especially of Portsmouth, and of the wreck of the Royal George, at Spithead, in 1782.

The Gallery of Paintings, by the late Benjamin West, P.R.A. Engraved in Outline by Henry Moses. Part I. Thomas.

THREE well-known subjects from Mr. West's pencil; engraved by Mr. Moses, with his equally well-known firmness, correctness, and beauty of line. But have we not seen these identical plates before?

The Penny Wedding. Accompanied by letter-press descriptions. By John Grant. Plate I. THE plate represents, with considerable humour, one of the merry ceremonies at a penny wedding in Scotland; namely, "the feet-washing." We cannot say much for the poetical description.

Memorials of Oxford. By the Rev. James Ingram, D.D. Nos. XXXII., XXXIII., and XXXIV. Tilt. No. XXXII., containing illustrations of "Exeter College," completed the second volume of this pleasing and interesting publication. Nos. XXXIII. and XXXIV. are occupied with "Trinity College," and "St. Aldate's and St. Ebbe's Churches."

The Works of Milton. Vol. IV. Macrone. THE embellishments of this volume are a fine head of the poet, after Cornelius Jansen's picture; and a vignette, representing "The Temptation on the Mountain," after Turner, and worthy of him.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE TWO CRAVOS.*

'NEATH an August sun two cravos grew,
All in a garden bright;
The one was red, of a deep, deep hue,
The other a pearly white.
Both were scented with sweetest scent;
And both were fair to the sight.

Morning and evening I watched these flowers,
For I loved to see them grow,
And open beneath the summer showers,
Which gave them strength to blow;
And the gentle winds which swept their leaves,
And rocked them to and fro.

The red, perhaps, was my favourite one;
But, lo! as I looked one day,
An insect vile came out of its heart,
And slowly crawled away;
And I saw it had eaten the inner core
Of the cravo quite away.

Then I looked at the white, which was still in bloom,
And whose leaves neither drooped nor fell.
It was sound at the heart, and no evil thing
In it was allowed to dwell;
Oh! one of these flowers is like my love,
But which I dare not tell.

H. M.

DRAMA.

THE NATIONAL THEATRES.

NOTWITHSTANDING all the paragraphs which

* The Cravo is the Portuguese carnation.

have appeared in the newspapers, the future leasehold direction of Drury Lane and Covent Garden are yet unsettled.

THE ENGLISH OPERA.

ON Saturday, and every night since, has been performed, with great effect and success, a new comic opera, founded on *Eliza and Claudio*, the music by Mercadante, and new-named *No Plot without Danger*. There is, however, very little danger in the plot of this drama, which mainly depends upon the composer and the vocalists. In these respects it is happy enough. Several of the airs, pathetic as well as comic, possess much beauty and humour; and some of the concerted pieces are strikingly skilful and effective; and they had justice done them by the performers. Mr. Stretton, of the Royal Academy of Music, and lately from the Edinburgh theatre, made his bow to a London audience as *Count Arnaldo*; and, with a fine organ, a thorough knowledge of music, a favourable personal appearance and easy action, met deservedly with an encouraging reception. Mr. Giubilei, in another senior part, has much to do, and does it excellently. Wilson sustains his reputation for unsurpassed sweetness and expression; and Bland and Oxberry fill up the measure of the male cast with great ability. Of the ladies we have also to speak in terms of eulogy. Miss Somerville exerts herself much, and is heard to great advantage. Miss F. Healy has a less prominent part, but goes through it well; and Miss P. Horton, as a faithful attendant, leaves us nothing to wish for.

The Schoolmaster at Home, a farcetta! has run contemporaneously with the opera, and been received with hearty laughter throughout. Williams, in the old pedagogue, is most admirable and ludicrous; P. Horton, quite at home in a lively and piquant character; Wrench, as he ever is—mercurial and entertaining; Oxberry, ditto, ditto; and Miss Pincott, not out of place among so much sterling acting.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.

CHANGES have taken, and are taking place, at this little theatre, where it has not been easy of late to know from the bills what was likely to be acted. Some sort of amusement was always got out, however, which pleased the audiences as much as if the pieces announced had been performed.

VARIETIES.

Sir William Blizzard.—This eminent surgeon died last week at the great age of 93. He was a fellow of the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries, and of other learned bodies, foreign as well as native. He was long professor of anatomy to the Royal College of Surgeons; and the author of several works of practical and professional usefulness, such as "Reflections on Police," "Suggestions for the Improvement of Hospitals, &c." "Lecture on the Large Blood-Vessels," &c.

Paganini.—It is stated in the newspapers, on the authority of a letter from Genoa, that the celebrated Paganini had fallen a sacrifice there to the dreadful malady the cholera, after only a few hours' extreme suffering.

Benevolence of Birds.—A lady residing in the neighbourhood of London, hung out a cage near her balcony, in which was a young bird, and it was fed for many weeks by sparrows.—*Jesse's Gleanings in Natural History.*

Mr. Haydon's Lecture on Painting was delivered at the Mechanics' Institute on Wed-

nesday evening, in which he impugned some of the general principles, though he approved of many of the detached views, in Sir Joshua Reynolds's discourses; and described the art as having deteriorated ever since the period of the Reformation. Our print-shops, and the Exhibitions at Somerset House, came in for marked and severe censures.

A Reasonable Request.—An anecdote in the last *New Monthly* reminds us of the following:

—At his first breakfast in new lodgings, a gentleman was much annoyed by finding hairs in his butter. At the mildest, but the most effectual mode of reproof, he thus addressed the servant, when she came to take away the things: "Sally, I am very fond of hairs in my butter; but, for the future, be so good as to bring the hairs in one plate, and the butter in another, that I may mix them in what proportion I like."

Swimming.—Eight of the best swimmers of the Austrian garrison of Bregenz engaged, for a wager, to swim across Lake Constance, from that town in the Tyrol to Lindau, a distance of six miles. They started at ten o'clock, and at three minutes before three o'clock a private soldier, named Tutaja, reached the bridge at Lindau. In 32 minutes afterwards he was followed by Lieut. Cepharowitsch. The six others only went about half the distance, and then were taken into the boats that attended them. The wind was blowing from the west, and the temperature of the water was 17 degrees of Reaumur, or 70° of Fahrenheit. This is, perhaps, the greatest distance ever traversed by swimming in fresh water. The two men who completed their task were perfectly blue when they landed, their pulse was scarcely perceptible, and several hours elapsed before their bodies resumed their natural heat. —*Paris Advertiser.*

Highland Wit.—“Who is there that has travelled the West Highlands, and does not know Rory More—the rattling, roaring, ready-witted, warm-hearted, big-fisted Highlandman, that keeps what her nain-scall calls the ‘Travelling Emporium?’ Surely none. And who that has ever experienced the comforts to be found under his roof-tree, but feels an ‘ardent longing after’ a repetition of the enjoyment? Surely few: and those who have had the pleasure of cracking a bottle with him, and seen him in his glee, for ‘muckle glee and fun has he,’ will easily believe the following little anecdote. A Cockney, one of the most troublesome and supercilious of the genus, who, during a residence of three days, had been the pest and torment of waiters, chambermaids, boots, and, in fact, the whole tail of the inn, having at last made up his mind to depart, he marched up to Rory with his hat set obliquely on his highly frizzled poll, a cigar in his mouth, and his hands doubled up on his haunch-bones. ‘I say, landlord, I vants a’ os.’ ‘That’s what I can’t give,’ says Rory, ‘all the horses are out, and I could not get one for you were it to save your life.’ ‘Oh! d—me, landlord, that answer vont do for me; I’m going off, and what the devil am I to ride on, pray?’ ‘Just,’ replies Rory, cocking his eye, ‘ride upon your own impudence; it will carry you further than any horse in Argyleshire.’ —*Laird of Logan.*

Periodicals.—“The Literary Union” has closed its brief monthly career with its sixth Number. The “Architectural and Industrial Magazine” has collected its papers from October 1st to the present period into a first volume for 1835, of 320 pages, together with an index.

The Eclectic Gazette, No. I.—We generally apprise our readers of the appearance of any new contemporary periodical in the field, but the above No. has escaped our notice for a month, among a mass of other papers. We have now to mention it with approbation as a literary miscellany, at a cheap rate, issuing forth every fortnight. The chief merit of its earliest specimen seems to lie in an acquaintance with the Hebrew learning and people.

LITERARY NOVELTIES.

In the Press.

The Student's Manual, designed to aid in forming and strengthening the Intellectual and Moral Character of the Student, by the Rev. John Todd. —Schleiermacher's Introduction to the Dialogues of Plato, translated from the German, by Wm. Dobson, M.A., Cambridge. —A History of British Quadrupeds, by Thomas Bell, Esq. Lecturer on Comparative Anatomy at Guy's Hospital.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

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METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL, 1835.

	August.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday.	27	From 49 to 70	29.66 .. 29.83
Friday	28	50 .. 70	29.91 .. 29.99
Saturday	29	48 .. 72	29.99 .. 29.97
Sunday	30	42 .. 79	29.98 stationary
Monday	31	42 .. 73	30.01 .. 29.99
<i>September.</i>			
Tuesday	1	46 .. 73	30.05 .. 30.08
Wednesday	2	42 .. 72	30.03 .. 30.11

Prevailing wind N.E.; a few drops of rain on the morning of the 27th ultimo; also, a shower of rain on the morning of the 28th instant; otherwise generally clear.

	September.	Thermometer.	Barometer.
Thursday.	3	From 40 to 73	30.05 .. 29.91
Friday	4	50 .. 76	29.79 .. 29.80
Saturday	5	57 .. 74	29.82 .. 30.01
Sunday	6	51 .. 73	30.01 .. 30.05
Monday	7	55 .. 73	30.02 .. 29.91
Tuesday	8	45 .. 69	29.77 .. 29.57
Wednesday	9	48 ..	29.64 ..

Wind variable, S.E. prevailing. Since the 3d, more generally cloudy, with frequent and sometimes heavy showers of rain.

Rain fallen, 575 of an inch.

Edmonton. CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

Latitude

51° 37' 32" N.

Longitude

3 51 W. of Greenwich.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. P. G.'s effusions must end with the single specimen in our last. “The Consolation” is certainly worthy of the author of “The Actor,” but we can give no more.

L. S. S. cannot do.

Ex. is certainly worthy of his assumed signature—out of

every thing that could recommend acceptance.

We have to thank the editors for several copies of the *New York Mirror* of June and July, in which we are glad to recognise a transatlantic fellow labourer of much literary variety and merit. Some of the notes from England, written (we suppose from the signature) by R. P. Willis, the author of “Melanie,” though piquant and entertaining for American readers, contain statements to provoke considerable personal resentment on this side of the water. *Inter alia*, Mr. Lockhart, we should think, would not be over pleased with his portraiture.

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